Usenet Newsgroup Archive: rec.radio.amateur.moderated

2009

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Date span: 2009-01-01 through 2009-12-31

Source text: rec.radio.amateur.moderated.txt

Source item: https://archive.org/details/usenet-rec

Messages included in this PDF: 512

Messages are presented chronologically by archived date.

Binary or encoded payloads are not printed as blocks of encoded text; a placeholder appears where such material was detected. The original source text is unchanged.

1. Re: How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-01 01:29:18 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6s2iukF3vtllU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2211

In news:a2pml4djd22sm0d89nniaf2a29dfsdg9gv@4ax.com,
Edward Feustel <efeustel@hughes.net> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:

[snip]

: I faced the same problem. In my Subaru Forester there
: seemed to be no good place to put it in mounted fashion.
:
: I solved the problem in an unusual way. I only have "passengers" in
: about 10% of my driving and typically don't use the radio when I
: have a passenger.
:
: I made a "mounting platform" that would sit on the passenger seat
: and that would allow me to see the front of the unit from the
: seat of an old wood chair. It was heavy enough to prevent it
: from sliding on an unexpected stop. Further, it with radio and
: all cables can easily be put in the back seat without being
: disconnected (and restored to its rightful place when no
: passengers are present). Should I have passengers in
: both front and back, I have only to disconnect antenna and power
: cables and put it in the "way-back". Total cost: $0 for the
: "platform".
: Ed, N5EI

My problem isn't so much mounting the radio as where the hell to get a 12V
supply from. There is no way through the bulkhead to wire it directly back
to the battery as I'm used to doing, nor is there any way I can see to get
at the back of the cigarette lighter socket, which is the only power
source inside the car capable of powering a 50W 2m/70cm radio.

I'm in the UK so not sure how many readers will be able to help, but it's
a 2007 Peugeot 307 if anyone has any ideas..!

73 Ivor G6URP

PS Happy New Year to all :-)

2. Re: How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-01 14:27:36 UTC
From: Edward Feustel <efeustel@hughes.net>
Message-ID: <j1gpl4lq7ka8l7ejeqat2foqtnu7eejjvp@4ax.com>
Source record: 2212

On Wed, 31 Dec 2008 20:29:18 EST, "Ivor Jones"
<ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:

....
>My problem isn't so much mounting the radio as where the hell to get a 12V
>supply from. There is no way through the bulkhead to wire it directly back
>to the battery as I'm used to doing, nor is there any way I can see to get
>at the back of the cigarette lighter socket, which is the only power
>source inside the car capable of powering a 50W 2m/70cm radio.
>
>I'm in the UK so not sure how many readers will be able to help, but it's
>a 2007 Peugeot 307 if anyone has any ideas..!
>
>73 Ivor G6URP
>
>PS Happy New Year to all :-)
Ivor,
I had the same problem.
I went to the car dealer's service shop.
I gave them my power cable.
They put it through the firewall, connected it properly to
the battery and sealed the hole.
Then they threaded it through the dash into the
passenger compartment.
They have a labor rate of around $70 per hour.
The total charge was $105.

Of course you can do it yourself, but this was much
simpler. This also has the advantage that the
power is on even when the car is off. Don't
forget to have it fused on both sides of the car firewall.
Best luck in 2009
Ed, N5ei

3. Re: How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-01 20:17:23 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <6s4huqF47b56U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2213

In news:j1gpl4lq7ka8l7ejeqat2foqtnu7eejjvp@4ax.com,
Edward Feustel <efeustel@hughes.net> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:

[snip]

: Ivor,
: I had the same problem. I went to the car dealer's service shop. I gave
them my power cable. They put it through the firewall, connected it
properly to the battery and sealed the hole. Then they threaded it through
the dash into the passenger compartment. They have a labor rate of around
$70 per hour. The total charge was $105.
:
: Of course you can do it yourself, but this was much simpler. This also
has the advantage that the power is on even when the car is off. Don't
forget to have it fused on both sides of the car firewall.
: Best luck in 2009
: Ed, N5ei

Worth a try, thanks. I know a guy who works for a company that installs
radios in taxis etc. so I might ask him if any of his guys know this car.

73 Ivor G6URP

4. Re: How to mount a mobile?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-01 20:21:48 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gjj8kd0td@news7.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2214

Ivor Jones wrote:
> Worth a try, thanks. I know a guy who works for a company that installs
> radios in taxis etc. so I might ask him if any of his guys know this car.

I hope you have better luck over there than over here Ivor.
Typically, all the taxi companies around here are run by 3rd
world people who would rather see their drivers burst into
flames than pay to have anything installed correctly.

From someone who spent several years dealing with the mess
the installers left behind.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

5. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1638 - January 2 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-02 10:11:32 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090102020935.01605920@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2215
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1638 - January 2 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1638 with a release date of Friday, January 2nd 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams in Hawaii step in as the lights go out. ARES members in Oregon aid in ice storm relief as a 911 system begins to fail. Hong King is set to fine and jail illegal CB operators and the story of an ancient goddess and her relation to ham radio. All this and more on the New Years 2009 edition of the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) and report number 1638 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS ACTIVATE AS OAHU GOES DARK

Hams on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, went on emergency power alert the evening of December 26th. That's when a power outage hit most of the big island. The failure of electrical service struck at about 7p.m. local Hawaiian time and affected over 150,000 residents. Bill Orenstein, KH6QX, is Newsline's former Production Coordinator. He lives in a high rise building that looks down on the busiest part of town and describes the way hams activated:

--

KH6QX: "The civil defense radio amateurs have all been alerted. The net has been activated and will stay active until everything is pow."

--

Pow is a Hawaiian tern for OK or back to normal, but nothing was very normal overnight. This meant hams involved in emergency communications had their work cut out for them. Again Bill Orenstein, KH6QX:

--

KH6QX: "Phone lines have been gridlocked and a lot of cellphone sites are down and AH6RH, Ron, has activated the state civil defense." (Fade to actual off-air net audio)

--

Hawaiian Electric officials said a lightning strike sent a power surge through its network, shutting down generators and causing the outage. Full power was not restored until about 6 a.m. on Saturday, December

27th. Ironically president-elect Barack Obama and his family wee spending a 12- day vacation on the island when the power outage took place. News reports say that Hawaiian Electric set up an emergency generator for Obama's Kailua beachfront rental retreat.

Meantime, for hams on Oahu the blackout proved once again that their ongoing nets and training sessions really paid off for the community. (KH6QX, KSSK radio, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: OREGON HAMS ASSIST AS 911 SYSTEM FAILS

The ARRL reports that ham radio stepped in when a 911 emergency call in system failed in Oregon just prior to Christmas. This as a massive freezing weather front hit the region.

The National Weather Service said that the winter storm hit the North and Central Oregon coast, as it made its way East to the Cascades mountain range. According to District Emergency Coordinator David Kidd, KA7OZO, amateurs in Clatsop County, were called on to provide direct emergency communications in for the 911 system that was in need of support. Two ARES members along with the resident deputy manned the sheriff's sub-station in Jewell. They provided 24 hour radio communication services to the county Emergency Operations Center.

Other hams provided 911 services for four villages and hamlets in the southern part of the county. There, residents in the area were told to go to ham radio operators and have them relay their needed service requests to the county EOC.

The complete story of what the hams of Oregon did as the winter storm struck is on the news pages at the ARRL's website. Its in cyberspace at www.arrl.org. (ARRL, others)

**

ENFORCEMENT: HONG KONG TO FINE AND JAIL ILLEGAL CB OPERATORS

Operate a CB radio in Hong Kong without a license or run to much power and you may go to jail. That's the essence of the warning from the Hong Kong's
Office of the Telecommunications Authority which has mounted an enforcement operation against the citizens radio operators which suspected of using illegal transmitters.

The telecommunications regulator has already raided the home of an operator identified as Chai Wan. There it seized one transmitter and detained three people for questioning.

Under Hong King law it is unlawful for any person to establish or maintain any means of telecommunications without an appropriate license. If convicted of this kind of an offense he or she is liable to a maximum penalty of a 100,000 Hong Kong Dollar fine and five years in jail.

Hong Kong's Office of the Telecommunications Authority that it intends to enforce the law to ensure proper management of radio spectrum which calls a valuable public resource. (Media Network, China Tech News)

**

ON THE AIR: TONGA TO VK - ON 6 METERS

Some 6 meter history was made on December 26th. This, when Paul Kidd, A35RK, on Lifuka Island, Tonga, twice contacted Colin Clark, VK4CC in Slacks Creek, Queensland, Australia on the 50 MHz band. The first QSO took place at 01:27 UTC with both stations running in the PK 31 digital mod. They then switched to RTTY at 01:29 and completed a contact using that mode as well. According to the Ohio Penn DX News, this is the first time it has ever been done on 6 meters between the two locations. (OPDX)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO AND THE EAGLE CAP EXTREME SLED DOG RACE

Ham radio will be used for the first time to help coordinate the Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race. The race takes place from January 14th to the 17th. According to Scott Hampton, KB7DZR, in Joseph, Oregon, many of the remote check points will have hams camping out in the cold at up to 7000 feet elevation for the entire race.

Short range communications will be linked using KB7DZR's Echolink node along with an Echolink connected repeater in Idaho. This to provide communications back from the most distant checkpoints. And while waiting for teams to pass, some may be active on the high frequency bands from 160 through 10 meters.

The Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race is Oregon's only Iditarod and Yukon Quest qualifier event. More information on the race is on-line at www.eaglecapextreme.com. (KB7DZR)

**

BREAK 1

Welcoming our listeners to 2009, from the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KD1RJ repeater serving the city of Fairfield, Connecticut.

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO AND SCOUTING: VENTURE ESCAPE 2009 DOWN UNDER

The 14th Australian Venture, 'Escape', will take place in January and Amateur Radio will be a part of it.

The first part of the Venture 2009 will see scouts performing expeditions around the South West of Western Australia from Friday January 9th to Wednesday the 14th. A scout communications team will set up an Internet

Cafe and a ham radio station The amateur station will use the call VK6SAA with operation on or near 3.650, 3.790, 7.090, 14.190 or 14.290, 21.190, 28.590, and 52.160. While SSB is the primary mode theres a good chance of some Slow Scan TV and PSK operations on the regular calling frequencies for those modes. The Internet Cafe will enable the Venturers to catch up with e-mail and chat online.

'Escape' is a major National youth event of the Venturer section of Scouts Australia. Scheduled contacts can be arranged by dropping an e-mail to vk6scouts at westnet.com.au (WIA News, Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO HISTORY: HAM RADIO CELEBRATES JACK BINNS - RADIO HERE

And going back in time . on January 23rd, 1909 the American luxury liner, "Republic," collided with the Italian cargo ship, the "Florida," in the icy waters off Nantucket. That's when a young radio operator named Jack Binns became a hero.

The collision killed two of the "Republic's" passengers and damaged Binns' radio gear. But the 25 year old Binns quickly made repairs and began to transmit the distress signal CQD. Although his signal was weak he was able to reach the wireless station on Nantucket. He stayed at his wireless for the next 36 hours, sending message after message from his frigid, water-swamped cabin. Eventually, the liner "Baltic," came to the rescue.

When Binns arrived back in New York, he was surprised to find himself the focus of attention. A ticker tape parade was held in his honor. He was offered contracts to perform on the vaudeville circuit. A song and a short film were made about him. No longer was he simply Jack the radio operator. He had become "CQD Binns" and a certified hero in the public eye.

To honor Binns on the 100th anniversary of the Republic and Florida collision, amateur radio operators around the are holding an on the air celebration. You can take part. Full details of the commemorative event are on-line at www.jackbinns.org/commemoration_news (Southgate, others)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: 3D MOON IMAGING BEGINS

3-D imaging of the Moon has begun using NASA supplied instrumentation on board India's Chandrayaan-1 spacecraft. The Moon Mineralogy Mapper is the first instrument to provide highly uniform imaging of the lunar surface. Along with the length and width dimensions across a typical image, the instrument analyzes the third dimension of color. The data collected is then radioed back to receiving stations on Earth. The Moon Mineralogy Mapper provides scientists their first opportunity to examine lunar mineralogy at high spatial and spectral resolution. (Technology Today)

**

RADIO LAW: CABLEVISION AWAITS SUPREME COURT RULING ON REMOTE DVR SYSTEM

Cable T-V giant Cablevision Systems says it will move ahead with plans to roll out a controversial remote digital video recorder system in 2009. This, if the system is not barred by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Cablevision remote D-V-R permits Cablevision subscribers to remotely record and store programs for delayed viewing on the company's servers. The system is being challenged by several large media companies. They argue that it would infringe on their copyright agreements because it does allow just that instead of on a consumers home Digital Video Recorder.

Cablevision first tried to launch the system in 2006, but it was immediately successfully challenged in courts by media companies including Time Warner Inc, News Corp , CBS Corp and Walt Disney Co. The cable company won an appeal in a New York Federal Court of Appeals last August but the media companies filed a Supreme Court challenge in October. The United States highest court is expected that a decision to hear the case by mid-month. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: 73S.ORG

A fascinating new ham radio cyberspace place to visit has emerged on the World Wide Web. Its called 73s.org and has a bit of everything you can imagine. Its kind of a cross between an interactive website with movie hosting ability and a web log or blog where users can post their thoughts and ideas. Give it a look. Again the simple URL is 73s.org. (Via e-mail)

**

HELPING HAMS: A SPECIAL REQUEST

Scott Hernandez, KD5PCK knows that it's a longshot but he is wondering if anyone listening to this report might have a recording of his fathers voice recorded off air. Scott's dad was Michael Hernandez, KD5PCM, and lived in Ponchatoula, Louisiana. If you do have such a recording please contact Scott by e-mail to kd5pck (at) gmail (dot) com. He truly would appreciate having it as a keepsake. (Via e-mail)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: 2001 YHOTY WINNER KC8BFD ENGAGED

Some names in then news. First up our congratulations to Newsline's 2001 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Patrick Clark, KC8BFD, of Charleston, West Virginia. This, on his Christmas Day engagement to Katie Thaxton.

Patrick Clark comes from an all-ham family. His father is Jeff Clark K8JAC whom you often hear reporting these newscasts. His mother Tina, is N8TSY and his sister Erin is KC8PZZ. Patrick has been involved in emergency service work from the day his ham radio ticket arrived in the mail. He was among amateurs who responded in the wake of the West Virginia Field Day floods of 1998. This, when the annual emergency preparedness drill turned

into the real thing as the skies unexpectedly opened up.

Patrick has since grown up and become a professional first responder. Katie Thaxton is a school teacher. The pair plan to wed within the next two years. (K8JAC)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: HUNTING LIONS ON THE AIR - 2009

The annual Hunting Lions in the Air contest will take place on the weekend of January 10 and 11th. Sponsored by Lions Clubs world-wide, this annual event is designed to foster a spirit of international understanding and cooperation' among radio amateurs and Lions through worldwide radio communication.

The contest was started 38 years ago to commemorate the birthday of the Lions founder Melvin Jones who was born on January 13th, 1879. More information is on line at lions@vsnl.net (Lion Ajoy)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: THE BLAC SEA CUP INTERNATIONAL

The members of the Ukrainian Black Sea Contest Club are inviting all amateurs world-wide to participate in the 2009 Black Sea Cup International. This event will be held the weekend of February 7th and beginning 12:00 UTC on Saturday and ending 00:00 UTC on Sunday. The object is to contact as many Black Sea Contest Club members, amateurs of Black Sea countries and especially IARU member society headquarters stations around the world as possible. Bands used are 160 through 10 meters but not including the WARC bands using. Only contacts made using CW and SSB are counted. For complete details visit www.bscc.ucoz.ru on the World-Wide-Web. (OPDX)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: QCWA MEETING AT HAMVENTION 2009

If all goes according to plan, there will be a first ever General Membership Meeting of the Quarter Century Wireless Association held at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. Negotiations are underway to hold a two hour session at Hamvention with an exact date and time to be announced by mid-March. This should make it easier for more members to get a chance for the members to interact with the groups leadership. Its also a way for non-members to find out more about QCWA and to join if they like what they hear and see. This gathering is in addition to the QCWA's own convention that in 2009 will be a Caribbean cruise from October 24th to the 31st. (QCWA)

**

BREAK 2

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous new year, from the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our

only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: A LEAP SECOND FOR 2008

If 2008 seemed like it lasted a bit longer than most years, well you are right. It was actually a full second longer 2007 than and Jim Linton, VK3PC. Is here to tell us why:

--

Time-keepers extended slightly the year 2008. This, by the insertion of a leap second just before Midnight on the 31st of December.

The International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service is responsible for monitoring the relationship between the atomic clock-based UTC and the rate of Earth's rotation. It had declared that the last minute of 2008 would have 61 seconds.

Leap seconds are added either at the end of a June or December and this one the 24th since they began in 1972. They are necessary because time is measured using stable atomic clocks whereas the rotation of Earth continually slows at a slightly variable rate. Negative leap seconds are also possible should the Earth's rotation become slightly faster.

Its easy to monitor the insertion of the leap second. All you need to do is to tune into the time and frequency broadcast of WWV. Or, if you have a Global Positioning System clock, watch it just prior and during zero hours UTC on the 1st the month into which it is inserted.

But don't blink your eyes while watching a GPS clock. If you do, you just might miss a Leap Second event and then have to wait several years for the next one to come about.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

--

And now we all know what a Leap Second is all about. (VK3PC)

**

HAM FUN: THE RADIO SHACK OF THE PAST

In 2006 Radio Shack announced that the company would no longer sell amateur radio gear. But back in 1930's the "shack" was one of the prime mail order suppliers of ham gear and accessories.

And now an animated 1939 Radio Shack catalog I on line for you to browse. You can find it at www.radioshackcatalogs.com/catalogs/1939 You turn pages by the use of the cursor. Just click on the lower right corner of the page, move it to the left. (QCWA)

**

ON THE AIR: RCA CE:EBRATES 100 YEARS WITH QSO PARTY

On the air, listen out for the 100th Birthday QSO Party of the Club of America signing W2RCA that runs January 2nd through the 4th U-T-C on 75 though 10 meters. Modes are SSB and AM phone only. More information including a complete operating schedule and logging sheets are on-line at www.radioclubofamerica.org. (RCA)

**

DX

In DX, HA9RE, and a team of operators will be active from Wallis Island as FW5RE. The group is expected to arrive on Wallis during the afternoon of January 26th and due to begin the operation on January 28th or the 29th. They are expected to be there for about a month. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters, including 30, 17 and 12 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. Two stations will be on the air. The QSL Manager will be HA8IB.

CO8LY says that if somebody needs a confirmed QSL from Cuba, that he is active on 160 meters or PKS31, RTTY, CW and SSB. You can make a sked with him via e-mail co8ly@frcscu.ciges.inf.cu

PA4JJ, will be active portable PJ2 from Curacao from April 1st to the 11th. This will be a holiday style operation with Jan on the air as time permits. Look for him on all the H-F bands except 160 meters and QSL direct to his home callsign.

Lastly, CU8AS, HB9CQL and HB9CRV will be active as CU8W from the Albarnaz Lighthouse on Flores Island between January 19-23rd. The operation will be mainly on the lower H-F bands using CW and RTTY. QSL via CT1GFK.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: AN ODE TO THE GODDES ISIS AND HAM RADIO

An episode of a kids TV show that used ham radio to move along the plot is now available on DVD, but you need to buy the entire set to see it. One ham already has. Hes our producer Bill Pasternak WA6ITF, and he tells us why:

--

The show was the Secrets of Isis. It was a live action CBS television series produced by Filmation in the mid-1970s that appeared during the networks Saturday morning children's lineup.

The Secrets of Isis starred actress JoAnna Cameron as Andrea Thomas. Her character was of a high school science teacher who found an ancient mystical amulet on an archeological dig. It seems that this particular amulet had belonged to an ancient Egyptian Queen and it gave the wearer the powers of the goddess Isis. Finding it made the is bearer an heir to Isis's secrets which the school teacher turned super hero used to right

wrongs.

The episode featuring ham radio was titled "No Drums No Trumpets." It told the story of how our hobby saves the day when the lead characters are held captive in a ghost town by some thieves. One of the prisoners is a ham who just happens to have his portable transceiver with him. Not an HT -- but a 1970's era Drake TR-22 "luggie talkie" that somehow the bad guys do not see.

"No Drums No Trumpets" was written by Arthur Nadel, W6TZY, who was also a producer of the series. While written for young kids, it was pretty accurate depicting the hobby, right down to the ham radio operators character insisting that the hobby be called "Amateur Radio." He even explained that one had to have passed a test and get a license in order to transmit on the air.

So why talk about a 37 year old kids TV show now? Well the radios used as props are part of it. One belonged to W6TZY. Another was loaned to Filmation by the late Lenore Jensen, W6NAZ while the third with its missing pull out antenna belonged to yours truly WA6ITF.

As far as I have been able to determine the episode aired only twice during the shows year and a half run and then kind of disappeared. Unfortunately, I never got to see it because my job kept me busy at the time it was on the air. I had been offered the loan of a 16 mm film print to watch on my own projector, but I simply never got around to doing it. So whether or not my radio got into the show remained a mystery until now.

Recently when a company known as Entertainment Rights bought the series and brought it out as a two DVD set that includes all 22 episodes, along with a bunch of extras that include interviews with most of the cast members, promotional material and even a great still photo of actress Joanna Pang who played Cindy Lee standing with Art Nadel, W6TZY, who is holding his TR-22 under his arm. Quite a tribute to our hobby.

Anyhow, as soon as I heard about it I got on-line to Amazon dot com and placed my order. A few days later I was watching for my long gone TR-22 in "No Drums No Trumpets." and there it was. The one missing its pull up antenna. My TR-22. It was good to see that it had attained its 15 seconds of even if I had to wait some three and a half decades to confirm it.

Before I go, some other quick notes about the Secrets of Isis. In addition to one episode that had half hour heaping praise on ham radio it also went out of its way to teach its young viewers the value of living to a personal high morel code. This, with the lead character Isis explaining at the end of each show the ethical lesson taught that week. Imagine trying to get the producers of a children's television show to do something like that today.

The Secrets of Isis was also the first weekly live-action American television series to feature a female super-hero in a recurring role. It pre-dated the debuts of both Wonder Woman and The Bionic Woman by several months. So did at least three Drake TR-22's playing the part of one.

From the studio in Los Angeles, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, with no TR-22, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Even if you don't have kids living at home, the one ham radio episode included is truly a trip back in time to a much kinder and gentler ham radio, and a great present for you to give to you. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go a reminder that Sunday, January 4th is the Kids Day of 2009. It's a time to open your shack and your heart to youngsters. Invite
them over and let them talk on the air to others youngsters who are talking part in the event. More information on Kids Day is on line at www.arrl.org.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73, welcome to 2009, and we thank you for listening.

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6. Re: The future of TVI

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-07 09:14:06 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <p1i8m4d9p1bju2022cps9ja2fs2jajpfbd@4ax.com>
Source record: 2216

On Sat, 13 Dec 2008 16:30:33 EST, rick frazier <rickf@rickfrazier.com>
wrote:

>but I've had more than one
>person that claimed they had problems because an amateur antenna went up
>in the neighborhood...

Fellow amateur was having a house built so he setup the tower while it
was still under construction. He got a complaint from Industry Canada
and arranged to meet the inspecters there. He showed them the tower
without any antennas or coax and the empty not quite completed
interior of the house.

The inspector smiled and stated they will be disregarding all
complaints from that person.

Tony

7. PSK31 contests and contest etiquette?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-07 09:14:35 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <oei8m4h3apslv7pq72mfg6b3hv622nn65o@4ax.com>
Source record: 2217

Folks

A local amateur, who knows a lot more about PSK31 than I do, is interested in participating in a PSK31 contest. I know how to use the Internet more than he does. <smile>

Which are the more popular contests preferably world wide?

What is proper operating technique with respect to power levels during a PSK31 contest?

Any other PSK31 contest tips or URL?

Tony (participates at VE5RI contest station)

8. Re: PSK31 contests and contest etiquette?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-07 19:08:41 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <lO69l.3775$BC4.3630@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2218

"Tony VE6MVP" <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com> wrote in message
news:oei8m4h3apslv7pq72mfg6b3hv622nn65o@4ax.com...
> Folks
>
> A local amateur, who knows a lot more about PSK31 than I do, is
> interested in participating in a PSK31 contest. I know how to use
> the Internet more than he does. <smile>
>
> Which are the more popular contests preferably world wide?
>
> What is proper operating technique with respect to power levels during
> a PSK31 contest?
>
> Any other PSK31 contest tips or URL?
>
> Tony (participates at VE5RI contest station)
>

Operation is like RTTY. Power levels? I don't know but most would be barefoot. Radio is adjusted for full power output in CW or SSB with NO processor, then mic level is adjusted with the PSK 31 idle tone for no more than 10 watts on an average reading wattmeter. If you have a peak reading wattmeter, you would keep it below 35 WPEP on a 100wPEP radio. There will be no ALC reading. Running higher than this without a proper station monitor scope will usually result in intermodulation distortion and make it more difficult (or impossible) for other stations to decode, and make your signal more broad. This is easy to see on other stations and you would cuss them out, but you can't very well see it on your own signal. If you want to fine tune this, you could get someone to talk you up or down while the other station looks at your signal. The signal should look like a railroad track, NOT like a switching yard with multiple tracks.

I have only participated in a few contests with PSK 31 and it was much like RTTY contests where you Roger the contact and exchange, then send the exchange and TU (Thank You for the call) and move on.

9. Re: PSK31 contests and contest etiquette?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-08 01:00:27 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <k77am4p774uo36tq2usnaf249nal7f7ab4@4ax.com>
Source record: 2219

On Wed, 7 Jan 2009 14:08:41 EST, "JB" <nospam@goofball.net> wrote:

>Operation is like RTTY. Power levels? I don't know but most would be
>barefoot.

So you're saying running the full legal power amp is frowned upon?
<smile>

>Radio is adjusted for full power output in CW or SSB with NO
>processor, then mic level is adjusted with the PSK 31 idle tone for no more
>than 10 watts on an average reading wattmeter. If you have a peak reading
>wattmeter, you would keep it below 35 WPEP on a 100wPEP radio. There will
>be no ALC reading. Running higher than this without a proper station
>monitor scope will usually result in intermodulation distortion and make it
>more difficult (or impossible) for other stations to decode, and make your
>signal more broad. This is easy to see on other stations and you would cuss
>them out, but you can't very well see it on your own signal. If you want to
>fine tune this, you could get someone to talk you up or down while the other
>station looks at your signal. The signal should look like a railroad track,
>NOT like a switching yard with multiple tracks.

Gotcha. You've just explained in greater detail what another amateur
was explaining last night on the repeater.

>I have only participated in a few contests with PSK 31 and it was much like
>RTTY contests where you Roger the contact and exchange, then send the
>exchange and TU (Thank You for the call) and move on.

Yup, that sounds about right. I've quite enjoyed the two RTTY
contests I've partcipated in.

Tony

10. Re: PSK31 contests and contest etiquette?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-08 23:32:56 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <5591a691-87b3-449f-b547-b2acb0de52d0@s1g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2220

On Jan 7, 7:00 pm, Tony VE6MVP <t...@REMOVEve6mvp.com> wrote:
> On Wed, 7 Jan 2009 14:08:41 EST, "JB" <nos...@goofball.net> wrote:
> >Operation is like RTTY. Power levels? I don't know but most would
be
> >barefoot.
>
> So you're saying running the full legal power amp is frowned upon?
> <smile>
>

Well, it might be, but if one was following the rules and not using more power than required for the desired communications, I don't see where anybody could complain. How many of us would turn down the power though? If you have an amp that can run 1.5KW at 100% duty cycle, "more power to ya" I say. Assuming you have the antenna to match then you are going to have a huge signal on PSK31, just PLEASE turn down the power when you don't need it for the QSO at hand.

In general, it's simply not necessary to run the legal limt. Running PSK31 takes up very little bandwidth and most of us guys are going to be running less than 100W (more like 40W for me) because that's what your avarage rig does. Stuffing all that power in such a small bandwidth makes your signal much stronger than if you spread it all out over 3Khz used for SSB. An amp might be nice from time to time, but I wonder how often you would really need it.

It's more important to keep the signal clean. NEVER get into ALC on your rig. Don't even get close to having the rig start using ALC or you will splatter your signal all over the passband of your transmitter (usually 3Khz wide). You WILL get told about it if you do because it makes a mess for everybody, so be very careful. I won't care if you run the legal limit, as long as your signal is clean, be my guest.

11. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1639 - January 9 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-09 14:12:44 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090109014611.0160a128@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2221
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1639 - January 9 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1639 with a release date of Friday, January 9th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A 93 year old ham radio operator is murdered in Florida and his son is accused of the crime. Also, the Japan Amateur Radio League and Japan AMSAT say that ham radio may soon be in orbit around the planet Venus, a Transatlantic propagation test in the southern hemisphere and the recession causes postponement of a long awaited D-X operation. The details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1639 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO CRIME: 93 YEAR OLD FLORIDA HAM ALLEGEDLY MURDERED BY HIS SON

The son of a 93 year old Lakeland, Florida ham has been arrested for the murder of his father in a crime that was made to look like a botched home invasion robbery. The body of Walter Farley, K4QE, was found at around 9:15 a.m. at his residence on New Year's day. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has been following this fast breaking case and has the details:

--

When Walter Farley's bullet-riddled body was found by his 63-year-old son, Robert, inside the home they shared, authorities called it a heinous crime and pledged to pursue any and all leads in a hunt for suspects.

A cash reward was posted and a tip-line publicized for the public to call in any information about the crime anonymously to the Polk County Sheriff's office.

Investigators pursued several avenues, including information that magazine solicitors had been in the neighborhood the night before Walter Farley's body was discovered.

But police were also pursuing another possibility - the possibility that Walter Farley was killed by his own son during some kind of domestic dispute. Inconsistencies in the story Robert initially told detectives on the day his father's body was discovered, coupled with other evidence led to his confession that his father's death was not a random crime.

Detectives say Robert Farley told them he and his wife, Mary, went to a motel in a nearby city to celebrate New Year's Eve. Authorities got video from the hotel security cameras showing that Farley had left the hotel after his wife took a nap earlier in the evening.

Investigators say Robert Farley went home and got into an argument with his father after discussing his intent to divorce his wife. Robert Farley told investigators there was a physical struggle and he shot his father at least four times with a .38-caliber handgun.

Robert Farley admitted he had changed his clothes, took several items from the home to simulate a robbery and drove to a nearby lake to dispose of the murder weapon.

A Polk County dive team recovered it from that lake.

Authorities say Robert Farley had been planning his father's murder for two months.

Local media accounts of the murder quoted neighbors as saying there was nothing to indicate any problems between father and son.

According to published reports, Walter Farley had a career as a telephone and radio repairman and was an Army veteran who served during World War II.

Friends were quoted as saying he had worked for AT&T for about 30 years and bragged about meeting three different presidents while traveling as a repairman aboard Air Force One.

Walter Farley, who was described as an active radio amateur, retired in the early 1980s and he and his wife, Loretta, bought a travel trailer to go on a cross-country road trip.

The couple settled in Dade County, Florida, and in 1992, the published report says, they lost everything when Hurricane Andrew hit.

Loretta died a short time later, but Walter remained active in the community, according to the reports, and continuing his travels to exotic destinations in Europe and South America.

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd thanked the community and the hotel where Robert Farley had stayed on New Year's Eve for helping to solve the case.

He declared, "Walter Farley did not deserve to die this way."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

Robert Farley, the elder Farley's son, is now charged with first-degree murder. If tried and convicted he faces a minimum of life in prison without parole. Prosecutors have not yet said if they will seek the death penalty in the case. Walter Farley, K4QE, was a respected member of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club and was active on several local nets. (ARNewsline(tm) and other sources)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: HAM RADIO TO HEAD TO VENUS

Amateur radio may well be headed to the planet Venus in about 18 months. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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The Japan Amateur Radio League and Japan AMSAT say that they are collaborating with the Japanese University Space Engineering Consortium. This, to send an amateur radio payload into a Venus transfer orbit next year along with the primary JAXA Planet-C Venus Orbiter mission planned for launch in May of 2010.

The satellite will be called UNITEC-1. It will be developed by the same teams who have already launched cubesats such as the highly successful Tokyo Institute of Technology's CUTE-1.

But the Venus orbital mission will be a bigger challenge because of the special experiments to be included in the mission. First, onboard computers developed by several universities will be tested in the harsh environment of space. This, in the form of a competition to see which of the computers can survive the longest in this radiation-rich area of our solar system.

The bird will also carry and test technologies to receive and decode very weak and low bit rate signal coming from deep space. Lastly will be a system to estimate orbit and signal Doppler shift of the satellite based on received RF signals. This is essential for tracking and receiving communications from such a Venus orbiting satellite..

Now, here's the best part. You too can be a part of this first ever ham radio in space mission to another world. The UNITEC-1 team is inviting radio amateurs all around the world to participate in the receiving and data capture of the latter two experiments.. They note that amateur radio operators working as individuals or in groups can develop stations and techniques to relay their received signal reports and data to the UNITEC-1 control center. They also view this is also a unique opportunity to propose amateur experiments or competitions to the satellite team. One experiment requiring the participation of several amateur radio earth stations will include the development of techniques to combine the received signals from several antennas to improve the received signal to noise ratio from the spacecraft as its outbound from earth.

An exciting ham radio mission to another world, to say the least.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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The UNITEC-1 website will provide the latest mission information. Its in cyberspace at http://unitec-1.cc.u-tokai.ac.jp/en/news_en) (ANS, G3VZV)

**

LACK OF PROPAGATION: 2008 AN ALMOST SUN SPOTLESS YEAR.

2008 was a truly low sunspot year. This, according to propagation expert Lee Wical, KH6BZF. Wical told the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter that there were 272 spotless days out of the leap year's 366.

August and December were the worst months with 31 and 28 spotless days, respectively. June and November were the best months with 19 and 15 spotless days. The rest of the months of 2008 were all in the twenties.

And oh yes. For a great profile of Lee Wical, look up KH6BZF on QRZ .com (OPDX)

**

HAM RADIO TECHNOLOGY: TRANSATLANTIC TESTS FROM AFRICA TO SOUTH AMERICA

An interesting propagation is about to take place in the southern hemisphere. Flavio Archangel, PY2ZX, reports over the VHF Reflector that there is a portable station being assembled near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This, for dedicated VHF and UHF Transatlantic tests between Africa and South America on the 6 meter, 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands.

Operating as PY2ENO portable PY6, its exact location is Maidenhead grid square GG87xc. It will be operational Monday, January 12th to Saturday the 17th. More information in Spanish is on-line at http://transatlantic.japydx.org (PY2ZX, VHF Reflector)

**

HAM RADIO ECONOMY: RECESSION LEADS TO SABLE ISLAND DXPEDITION POSTPONEMENT

The economic meltdown has caused a postponement in the long awaited Sable Island Dxpedition. According to Team Leader Duane Traver, WV2B, due to the current United States economic situation, the DXpedition team has decided to postpone the C-Y-Zero DXpedition planned for 2009.

WV2B says that the group is hopeful to reorganize the DXpedition possibly as early as 2010. In the meantime they have decided to return donations received to date. This, so that the funds can be made available for possible sponsorship of other DX operations this year.

Traver says that any sponsoring organization should feel free to contact him with any questions regarding the matter. He also says that the group is hopeful that their supporters will be willing to renew their sponsorship when the DXpedition can be reorganized. He adds that the sabledx.com website will remain functional for the time being. (WV2B)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the East Cape Linked Repeater Network with systems serving all of South Africa.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TO USE TV CHANNEL 15 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

The FCC says that it has granted the County of Los Angeles a conditional waiver. One that permits the use of TV Channel 15 for Public Safety communications. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

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According to an FCC release, Los Angeles county had filed 57 applications and requests to use 476 to 482 MHz, by waiver, this spectrum for emergency communications. Most stated that the county needed such a grant to allow for a desperately needed expansion of public safety communications in the Los Angeles area. This, in a manner that would promote efficient interoperability among the plethora of public safety agencies serving the region.

In approving the waiver the FCC says that it must consider the Commission's statutory purpose of promoting safety of life and property. Also, that in view of the record, it found persuasive those comments stating that a consolidated UHF system in Los Angeles County would provide a valuable communications resource for the County and local public safety agencies to handle everyday operations, homeland security prevention, protection and response.

The FCC also noted that this enhanced system would also be available to handle natural and man-made disasters effectively and efficiently. This would mean the least amount of lives lost and a minimum amount of property damaged.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM.

--

The complete text of the FCC's approval of the STA is at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-2823A1.doc (CGC, FCC)

**

CHANGING TECHNOLOGY: DTV CONVERSION COUPON PROGRAM OUT OF MONEY

The government's funding program to help people prepare for the transition to digital television has run out of money. This potentially leaves up to 8 million viewers without discount coupons to buy converter boxes they need to keep their analog TV sets working after the switch to digital.

As of this Sunday, January 4th, consumers who request a $40 coupon to help offset the cost of a converter box are being placed on a waiting list. They may not receive the coupons before February 17th unless they are willing to pay full price for a converter that costs between $80 to $250 depending on a given box's features and what a retailer has priced them at.

Members of Congress are now scrambling to find ways to allocate more money to the program. The big problem is that the nation is facing a monumental deficit, so there may be political opposition to expanding the converter box subsidy program. (TV)

**

RADIO LAW: SOME INTERNET MUSIC MAY GO AWAY

The increase in royalties to air music over the Web may force Yahoo and AOL to shutter their Web radio sites. Bloomberg news recently reported that no accord seems to be on the horizon between SoundExchange, which represents major record labels and sought the increase, and other groups. This includes many radio Internet broadcasters. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO AND SCOUTING: DARA FORMS SCOUT VENTURING CREW

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association and the Miami Valley Council Boy Scouts of America have teamed up to form a new Scouting Venturing crew. This, to serve the needs of high school age youngsters in the Dayton, Ohio area.

Venturing is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for those who are at least age 14, and have completed the eighth grade. This new Dayton Amateur Radio Association sponsored Venturing crew is the only Amateur Radio specialty Scouting group in the Boy Scouts of America Miami Valley Ohio Council. (DARA)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: UK CLUB WINS GRANT TO FURTHER HAM RADIO EDUCATION

A United Kingdom radio club is the big winner in a national lottery. The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society has been awarded a ï¿½10,000 endowment from the 'Awards for All' program that gives grants to local groups.

The grant to the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society will be used by the club to further develop amateur radio training in the Chelmsford area as well as radio sports and for the establishment of a demonstration station in the Sandford Mill Science and Industry Museum. Among the equipment the club is buying with the grant are transceivers, a linear amplifier and some antennas. Also being purchased are some laptop computers and a video projector to be used in training programs and other projects. (Southgate)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: FAR ANNOUNCES 2009 - 20010 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PERIOD

FAR, the Foundation for Amateur Radio has announced that it is now accepting applications for the 48 scholarships it administers for the 2009 through 2010 academic year. This, to aid licensed radio amateurs who are pursuing a higher education.

The foundation funds two of the scholarships and administers 46 others. Hams pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply. Scholarship grants range from $500 to $5000, and preference in some cases goes to applicants living in particular geographical areas or pursuing certain studies. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships.

The application deadline is May 1, 2009. More information and an application form may be requested by letter via e-mail to scholarships@farweb.org. It can also be obtained by sending a card or note postmarked prior to March 30th to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, Maryland, 20738. (FAR)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: USS MIDWAY CELEBRATES TWO MILITARY EVENTS

Keep an ear open for special event Station NI6IW that will be operational from the USS Midway radio room on January 10th. The station will take to the ham radio airwaves from 1700 to 0059 UTC. This, to commemorate the commissioning of the world's first nuclear powered ship, the USS Nautilus, and Operation Desert Storm liberating Kuwait .

NI6IW will operate CW, SSB, PSK 31 and RTTY on the H-F bands as well as D-Star via the 145.615 KI6MGN Palomar Mountain repeater. QSL with a self addressed, stamped envelope to the USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 North Harbor Drive, San Diego, California, 92101. (W9EN)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: THREE INDUCTED INTO THE NEW ZEALAND DX HALL OF FAME

Kiwi DX'ers have announced the formation of a new New Zealand DX Hall of Fame. This, to honor those outstanding Zed-L DX'ers who have excelled in our radio sport hobby over many years.

The first inductees include Roy Jackson, ZL4BO and Ron Wright, ZL1AMO. Also inducted posthumously was Jock White, ZL2GX. All were honored for their extraordinary and unselfish contribution to the sport of Amateur Radio DXing in New Zealand. (ZL News)

**

D-STAR NEWS: AUSTRALIAN DSTAR LIST NOW HAS 233 MEMBERS AND GROWING

There are now 233 radio amateurs world-wide posting to the Australian D-Star list and the number seems to increase every day. Since the introduction of the list earlier this year, membership and site usage has grown drastically. D-Star usage has also shown a marked increase since the introduction of the DV Dongle, giving hams a relatively inexpensive and easy way to gain the benefits of D-Star from home. (D-Star Remailer)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ORLANDO HAMCATION FEBRUARY 13 - 14

The 2009 ham radio social scene really begins the weekend of February 13th to the 15th. That's when the Orlando Amateur Radio Club holds the 63rd Orlando HamCation Amateur Radio and Computer Show at the Central Florida Fairgrounds in Orlando, Florida.

Over 150 commercial vendors are expected top be there. Also, 400 swap table vendors will be a part of the largest tailgate sales operation in Florida during the show. This year's HamCation theme will be "Amateur Radio Always a Challenge." And, special event station K4H will be on the air from the site to help commemorate this year's outing.

More information is on-line at www.hamcation.com, or by e-mail to hamcation (at) oarc (dot)org.

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING HAM TECHNOLOGY: A TRANSMITTER FROM A CFL

How would you like to build a transmitter from the remains of one of those compact fluorescent light bulbs? Well one ham has and his work is fast becoming the talk of the Internet. Graham Kemp VK4BB, is here with the details:

--

Turn a 'low energy' light bulb into an 80m transmitter!

'Low energy' light bulbs are renowned for causing radio interference but they can be put to good use. A website describes how to turn one into a transmitter for the Amateur Radio 80m band.

Michael Rainey, AA1TJA's website describes how to convert a compact fluorescent lamp -- in this case a TriMax Electronic Fluorescent Lamp -- into a 1.5 Watt QRP CW transmitter for 3.5 MHz. Indeed, Michael goes on to say "a perfectly serviceable transmitter may be constructed!

The only additional components required were the quartz crystal, and four of the five components needed for the output low-pass filter. The resulting transmitter produces up to 1.5 Watts on 80m.

More information is on Michael's Website.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, reporting from Brisbane, Australia.

--

A few words of caution regarding the handling those compact fluorescent lamps or any fluorescent lamps for that matter. The glass section of these lamps contain some pretty toxic chemicals that you will really not want to come in contact with. Also, be very careful to avoid shattering the glass as its very easy to suffer a deep gash from the shards and find yourself in a hospital emergency room as a result. That said, a link to the website that Graham refers to can be
at http://mjrainey.googlepages.com/dasderelicht (Southgate, WIA News)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: NEW LUNAR PHOTOS FROM THE 1960'S

Efforts are being made to retrieve pictures made by the Lunar Orbiter spacecraft in 1966 and 1967. For those of us old enough to remember, back in the late 1960's NASA sent five Lunar Orbiter missions to photograph the surface of the moon. The purpose of these probes was to gain a better understanding of the lunar environment in advance of the Apollo program. Back then, data was radioed back to Earth where it was first recorded on large magnetic tape reels. It was then decoded and transferred to photographic film for scientific analysis. When these images were first retrieved from lunar orbit, only a portion of their true resolution was available because of the limited technology available at the time.

NASA has now released a newly restored 42-year-old image of Earth. The Lunar Orbiter 1 spacecraft took the iconic photograph of Earth rising above the lunar surface in 1966. Using modern digital technology, NASA has now produced the image at a much higher resolution than was possible when it was originally taken. To view the image and for more information about the Lunar Orbiter Image Recovery Project,
visit http://www.nasa.gov/topics/moonmars/features/LOIRP) (NASA)

**

WORLDBEAT: IRELAND TESTS ITS EAS SYSTEM

Turning to news from around the world, word that Ireland has tested its version of the Emergency Activation System. On the 16th of December at 4:45AM local time, the Irish Department of Communications carried out a structured exercise to test the nation's broadcast emergency services alert system.

Early that morning, all television and radio channels carried a 30 second engineering test simultaneously across Ireland. The four terrestrial broadcasters, regional broadcasters, all national radio channels and the 25 local radio stations carried an announcement indicating that the test was being conducted and that normal programming would resume as soon as it was concluded.

The drill was designed to simulate an urgent requirement of the government or an emergency service provider to have access to radio and TV broadcast platforms as fast as possible in order to broadcast information to the public. This is the first time such an exercise has ever been carried out in Ireland. (IRTS)

**

ON THE AIR: THE SOUND OF HEAVY IRON ON 75

If you are interested in hearing some good heavy metal AM signals the way that they used to sound on the ham bands, then this is for you. Hams nationwide are invited to tune in to the mid-West based 3.868 MHz Noontime AM Forum. The net meets Monday through Friday at 12 noon Central US time. Net control is K9ACT in Marengo, Illinois, and the net gives anyone with A-M gear a chance to test that equipment under real life operating conditions. (KB9YGD)

**

ON THE AIR: CANADIAN HAMS CELEBRATE GALILEO

Canadian hams will be permitted to use a special sequence old prefixes through February 28th. This to commemorate Galileo's first use of an optical telescope and the subsequent discoveries he made in his lifetime. For Canadian hams wanting to take part, the special prefixes work this way: VE changes to CG: VA changes to CF; VO changes to CH and VY changes to CI. Event planners say that they hope the calls will also promote the International Year of Astronomy. (Southgate)

**

DX

In DX, word that The ARRL DXCC Desk has approved credit for the T61AA operation from Afghanistan. This, after the license for the operation was updated. If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for credit update.

G7COD will be operational January 11th to the 27th from the Island of Embudu in the Kaafu Atoll. This, using the callsign 8Q7AK. Activity will be CW and SSB on 40-10 meters including 30, 17 and 12 meters. For comprehensive details on QSL information please check 8Q7AK on QRZ dot com.

OZ8KR will be active as C56KR from Bakuto, Gambia through January 14th. Listen for him on 40 though 10 meters on SSB only. QSL via his home callsign.

G3ZVW will be operational as ZD8N from Ascension Island from January 12th to the 27th. He will be using CW, RTTY and SSB mainly on 30 through 10 meters. QSL direct or via the bureau.

EA5GVH will be on the air from Aruba as P40PZ from January 12th to the 28th. He will operate 80 through 6 meters using SSB and the digital modes only. QSL via EA5GVH.

HB9CRV has announced that as of December 31st, 2008, he is no longer the QSL manager of CT3BX. No new QSL Manager has been found and the logs are closed.

Lastly, G3NKC, G4XUM and MD0CCE will be active as MD4K from the Isle of Mann during the CQ 160-Meter CW Contest. That's January 24th to the

25th. The trio will operate as a Multi-Op entry. QSL via G3NKC and be sure to include sufficient return postage with your QSL request.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE MOUSE AT 40

And finally this week, it's the 40th birthday of a neat little device that makes it easy to work and play at your computer. Here's Jim Linton, VK3PC:

--

Just imagine a personal computer without a mouse? That may very well happen in a few years time but more about that later.

The first public demonstration of a mouse was by the Stanford Research Institute in San Francisco California on 9 December 1968.

At an event attended by 1,000 computer professionals the mouse made its debut, shown off by Douglas Engelbart and his team of fellow researchers. It looked like a real mouse in shape and its attached cord resembling a tail led to it gaining its name.

Four years later, Bill English developed the 'ball mouse,' replacing the external wheels on the original mouse with a single ball that could rotate in any direction. It was first sold with the Zerox Alto computer in 1981.

In more recent years, wireless technology enabled the ubiquitous mouse to lose its tail. There are now predictions that within five years the mouse will be obsolete, being replaced by touch screen and facial recognition technology.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

--

The mouse has taken on many roles over the years and its been seen in many situations. Perhaps the funniest was in the Star Trek movie "The Voyage Home." That's where the cast goes back in time to San Francisco in the 1990's to find a pair of hump back whales key to saving the future Earth. Scotty has need of a computer and all that's available is a neat little Mac. Well, Scotty is used to giving verbal commands to his computer and is not sure what to do with the mouse. So, he picks it up, looks at it and then uses it as a microphone to try to talk to the little Mac. And, as those who saw the movie know, the Mac never responds. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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12. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 1 (Friday, January 9, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-09 20:22:55 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090109202218.B42EB31006@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2222
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 1
January 9, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL Board of Directors, Standing Committees to Meet in Connecticut
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* + One Mode Down, Two to Go!
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* + DXpedition to Desecheo Gets Ready to Roll
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Son Charged with Murder of Florida Ham

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

EARTHQUAKES STRIKES COSTA RICA, EMERGENCY HAM FREQUENCY DECLARED: Due to
strong seismic activity in Costa Rica, the Radio Club de Costa Rica
(RCCR) -- that country's IARU Member-Society -- is monitoring local
repeaters and 7090 kHz. IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications
Coordinator Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, requests that 7090 kHz be kept clear
of non-essential traffic due to possible emergency communications
dealing with the earthquake. The ARRL encourages all amateurs to be
aware of the emergency operations on this frequency. US amateurs should
avoid interfering with Spanish language SSB while using digital modes.

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STANDING COMMITTEES TO MEET IN CONNECTICUT NEXT WEEK

The ARRL Board of Directors holds their 2009 annual meeting January 16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut, with Directors, Vice Directors and ARRL Board officers in attendance. The meeting will be preceded on Thursday, January 15, with meetings of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Programs and Services Committee.

The Administration and Finance Committee, chaired by Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, studies, advises and makes recommendations for all administration and financial matters of the League, including recommending the annual budget to the Board, making recommendations in regard to staff management and monitoring investment of ARRL funds. Fenstermaker said he can report that "2008 was a relatively good year with growth in membership and meeting the needs of our members. The 2009 plan calls for continuing to provide existing programs and to develop new programs, as well as provide better communication tools. Our belief is that in difficult economic times, members will focus even more on activities they are familiar with and have investments in, such as Amateur Radio. We see our opportunities and ability to serve members' needs increasing under this scenario."

The Programs and Services Committee, headed by Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, studies, advises and makes recommendations for all programs and services provided by the League, including Logbook of the World, W1AW and the incoming and outgoing QSL services. "The Programs and Services committee is pleased with ongoing work to strengthen ARRL's Internet presence through the Web site redesign and the expansion of the IT department. A good example is the new Triple Play Worked All States award that is generating a lot of interest. On the Field Organization side, we are monitoring implementation of changes brought on by the Section Governance survey that was reported in July, as well as those brought about by the NERPC report following Hurricane Katrina and other large-scale disasters. Membership Services projects include receiving studies from our Contest and VHF/UHF Advisory Committees and ongoing consideration of awards-related matters. We're also interested in development of the new 'PR-101' course for Public Information Officers and our other educational offerings," Frahm said.

Per the Articles of Association <http://www.arrl.org/aabl.html>, the ARRL Board of Directors meets twice a year, in January and July.

==> ONE MODE DOWN, TWO TO GO!

With the advent of the ARRL's Triple Play Award <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>, on-air participation has reached a level of excitement not seen in recent years. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the January 1, 2009 and must be confirmed via Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. All bands -- with the exception of

60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

The ARRL RTTY Round Up, held January 3-4, was one of the first organized events eligible for the award. "If the amount of activity in the 2009 ARRL RTTY Round Up is any indicator, the Triple Play is off to a fantastic start," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "The RTTY Roundup was the first contest to take place since the award's inception. It ended only a few days ago, and we already have received almost 1100 logs. There's been a lot of chatter on the RTTY e-mail reflectors about getting the Triple Play completed, and I personally have seen numerous stations calling 'CQ Triple Play' on PSK31 since the first of the year. People already have their 'needed list' programmed into their PSK31 macros. There is no question that the new Triple Play award is causing a lot of buzz in the digital community. I'm happy that we have been able to come up with a new award that so many people are interested in right off the bat."

According to Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, Assistant Manager for the Membership and Volunteer Programs Department, hundreds of new LoTW certificates have been processed each day since the first of the year. "We are excited to see such an upswing in LoTW participation," he said. "I know what a thrill it can be to upload my logs to LoTW right after a contest and see the QSOs appear almost instantaneously. That's the magic of Logbook of The World."

Those who participated in the RTTY Round Up were ecstatic over how easy it was to use LoTW. Jose Castillo, N1BAA, of Amherst, Massachusetts, said, "Just amazing! Just under 24 hours since I uploaded my ARRL RTTY Round Up log and now I have Worked All States confirmed via LoTW [from just the RTTY Round Up]. Gotta love LoTW!" Bob Garceau, W1EQ, of Putnam, Connecticut agreed: "I'm impressed with the response to my uploaded log to LoTW. I uploaded 728 QSOs and 50 hours after the contest closed, I have 336 QSLs. That's a 46 percent response. Impressive! I think that someone will get #1 Triple Play by the end of January."

Don't be too upset if you wanted to work one of the digital modes and didn't participate in the RTTY Round Up -- other digital modes, such as PSK31 and Hellschreiber are also eligible for the digital portion of the award. The first ever 24 hour Hellschreiber sprint takes place January 17. According to the Feld Hell Club's Web site, all modes of Hell on any band (with the exception of 17, 30 and 60 meters) are allowed in the sprint <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests>. If you like operating digital modes and you missed the RTTY Round Up, why not give the Feld Hell sprint a try? According to QST Editor and digital guru Steve Ford, WB8IMY, free sound card software for Hellschreiber, such as Fldigi <http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html>, MultiPSK (for PCs)< http://f6cte.free.fr/index_anglais.htm> and cocoaModem (for Macintosh) <http://homepage.mac.com/chen/w7ay/cocoaModem/> can be found online.

For SSB and CW aficionados, the North American QSO Parties (NAQP) start January 10: The CW portion is 1800 UTC January 10-0600 UTC January 11, and the phone portion is 1800 UTC January 17-0600 UTC January 18 (the

NAQP RTTY Contest is 1800 UTC February 28-0600 UTC March 1). Of course, you don't have to participate in a contest to chase the Triple Play Award. As long as you submit your logs to Logbook of The World, you're good! LoTW is set up to calculate your Triple Play QSOs separately from your other QSOs.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, warned that it can be "addictive" once you begin making your contacts for the Triple Play Award, and that "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

So get on the air, make contacts and submit them via Logbook of The World. Before you know it, you'll have something new to hang up on your shack wall.

==> FCC COMMISSIONERS: NOW THERE ARE FOUR

The term of FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, a Republican from Tennessee, came to an end on January 3 as the 111th Congress convened for the first time. Originally selected by President Bush to fill the unexpired term of then-Chairman Michael Powell, Tate joined the Commission in 2005 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/11/10/100/>. In June 2007, Bush announced his intention to nominate Tate to a full five year term <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=7534>, but when the Senate failed to confirm her nomination by the close of the 110th Congress, Tate's tenure as a Commissioner came to a close.

"My term as a commissioner is at an end," Tate said, "and I would like to express what a great privilege and honor it has been to serve our country and the Federal Communications Commission over the past three years. I am grateful to President Bush for his appointment and for his confidence in my ability to make important decisions on behalf of the American people."

Tate said that she plans on advocating for children and families both in this country and abroad. She said she will also dedicate herself "to protecting our stories and storytellers, and to opposing the economic and moral harm of piracy." She also plans on launching a formal mediation practice "that will utilize the skills I have practiced daily at the Commission to develop resolution, consensus and collaboration in the communications sector and beyond."

Chairman Kevin Martin thanked Tate for her service to the Commission, saying her "good nature and distinct personality" will be missed. "Based on her experience as an effective state commissioner," Martin said, "Commissioner Tate demonstrated strong leadership during her tenure as Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, and the

Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations. As Chair, she led the effort to address [these two] critical components of the telecommunications framework set forth by Congress. Commissioner Tate embraced the difficult task of trying to reach consensus between federal and state members on these very technical and complex issues."

Tate thanked the Commission's professional staff, calling them "the finest, most honorable group of civil servants in our government. They are viewed as the 'gold standard' by our international colleagues and I appreciate their dedication, integrity and commitment. All Americans should be proud of their work."

==> DXPEDITION TO DESECHEO GETS READY TO ROLL

Six members of the February 2009 KP5 Desecheo DXpedition team <http://www.kp5.us/> met in Puerto Rico the week of December 17-21. According to team co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE, the team visited US Fish and Wildlife Headquarters in Boqueron and met with the Chief Refuge Manager and law enforcement personnel in preparation for the DXpedition, set to start February 12.

Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list; the island is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe. Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the western coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the USFWS's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR) <http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/>.

"After an evening with local DXers and members of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League for dinner and a night of fellowship, DXpedition team members underwent UXO (unexploded ordnance) training," Allphin said. "On December 19, we accompanied US Fish and Wildlife law enforcement and UXO personnel to Desecheo Island. In the three hours we were there, the campsite and antenna fields were thoroughly swept for UXO and several areas were found suspicious. These areas were clearly marked, mapped by GPS and declared off limits for the DXpedition."

Allphin said that the USFWS will allow antennas on the ridge above the helicopter pad, providing a clear shot to Europe, North America and Japan. Other antennas will be located on the beach below the helicopter pad. While on Desecheo, the team conducted a test for the 2 meter link to Puerto Rico.

"Logistics and staging of equipment is ongoing and will be complete before the team arrives in Puerto Rico on February 7." Allphin said. "The team will transit to Desecheo on February 12 to begin the two week operation. Eight HF stations, plus 6 meters, will be operational. We have planned an incredible array of antennas. Transportation and logistics have been arranged for a fast deployment and quick appearance on the air. As soon as we land on Desecheo, two stations will be immediately activated. Stations will continue to operate until the final

moments of departure on February 26."

Per USFWS rules, only 15 operators will be allowed on the island at one time. "We have arranged with USFWS to allow a shift change about half way through the DXpedition," Allphin told the ARRL. "This has allowed a number of hams on our waiting list an opportunity to participate in this DXpedition."

DXpedition co-leader Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. "We've had tremendous support from DX organizations all over the world and from numerous equipment and antenna manufacturers," he told the ARRL. "We are diligently working on the propagation studies to reach our hard-to-work areas of Asia and Europe. This plus our planned antennas, we should knock Desecheo off of the Most Wanted List for a long time to come."

==> NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2009 DAYTON HAMVENTION AWARDS

The Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org/> is accepting nominations for its 2009 awards <http://hamvention.org/awards.php>. Do you know an outstanding amateur in your club, community or from on-the-air contacts? Does this person excel in some phase of Amateur Radio? Do you feel this person deserves worldwide recognition? All radio amateurs are eligible. The deadline for nominations is February 18, 2009. The winners will be recognized at the 2009 Hamvention, May 15-17.

The three awards are:
* The Amateur of the Year Award -- This award will be given to the special person who has made a long term commitment to the advancement of Amateur Radio. The Hamvention Awards Committee is looking for a well-rounded individual who has contributed to Amateur Radio in some outstanding way.
* The Technical Excellence Award -- This award will be given to the person who has made an outstanding technical advancement in the field of Amateur Radio.
* The Special Achievement Award -- This award honors someone who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Amateur Radio, usually someone who has spearheaded a significant project.

Awards are decided by the Awards Committee, based partially upon the information received, not the number of nominations submitted.

Documentation is beneficial. Magazine articles, newsletters, newspaper clippings, videos and such will better inform the Awards Committee of your candidate's accomplishments. These materials become the property of Hamvention and cannot be returned. Nominations may be sent via e-mail <awards@hamvention.org> (please scan all supporting documents and send them as attachments, via fax at 937-276-6934, or US Mail to Hamvention Awards, PO Box 964, Dayton, OH 45401-0964. Nomination forms are available in either PDF format <http://hamvention.org/files/nominations09.pdf> or Microsoft Word format <http://hamvention.org/files/nominations09.doc>. If you send your

nomination via e-mail, the Awards Committee requests that you place your name in the subject line of the e-mail. -- Dayton Hamvention Awards Committee

==> FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO INVITES SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The non-profit Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR) <http://www.amateurradio-far.org/> is now accepting applications for 48 scholarships for the academic year 2009-2010 to assist radio amateurs pursuing higher education.

FAR fully funds two of scholarships and administers 46 others without cost on behalf of various club and individual donors. Amateur Radio licensees pursuing a full-time course of study beyond high school and accepted by or enrolled in an accredited university, college or technical school are eligible to apply. Scholarship grants range from $500 to $5000, and preference in some cases goes to applicants living in particular geographical areas or pursuing certain studies. Non-US residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. FAR encourages clubs -- especially those in California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin -- to announce these scholarship opportunities at meetings, in newsletters, during training classes, on nets and on their Web sites.

More information and an application form may be requested by letter via e-mail or by sending a QSL card postmarked prior to March 30, 2009, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738. The application deadline is May 1, 2009. Headquartered in Washington, DC, FAR consists of more than 75 area Amateur Radio Clubs. FAR is devoted to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The spruces rough in the distant glitter of the January sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: On Wednesday, January 7, a sunspot appeared very briefly in the lower right portion of the Sun's image. It was so brief that NOAA did not record it on the Space Weather Prediction Center's daily solar data chart for that day. Spaceweather.com reported a sunspot number of 11 for the day, and the magnetic polarity was consistent with a new Solar Cycle 24 spot. Today, January 9, there is another Solar Cycle 24 appearance, this time on the upper left of the image. Sunspot numbers for January 1-7 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.9, 69.9, 69.5, 68.8, 69.2, 68.7 and 69 with a mean of 69.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 3, 9, 4, 4, 3 and 3 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 3, 8, 5, 3, 2 and 1 with a mean of 3.9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin

page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Wallace Stevens' "The Snow Man" <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5031535>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the Midwinter Contest (CW) is January 10, while the North American QSO Party (CW), the Hunting Lions in the Air Contest and the MI QRP January CW Contest are all January 10-11. Look for the SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, the NRAU-Baltic Contest (CW and SSB), the Midwinter Contest (phone) and the DARC 10 Meter Contest on January 11. Next week is the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes is January 17-19. The LZ Open Contest is January 17. The North American QSO Party (SSB), the Hungarian DX Contest and the UK DX Contest (RTTY) are all January 17-18. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is January 19 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is January 22. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, January 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, February 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Technician License Course; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* ARES E-Letter Gets New Look: The ARRL ARES E-Letter <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/about.html>, published on the third Wednesday of each month, makes the move from a plain text formatted newsletter to an HTML format this month. The second of the ARRL e-letters to update its look (the ARRL Contest Update switched over to an HTML format in May 2008), the ARES E-Letter has a circulation of 33,000 ARRL members. The ARES E-Letter is a digest available via e-mail

full of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and to hams concerned with public service and emergency communications. E-mail newsletters, such as the ARES E-Letter, the Contest Update and The ARRL Letter, are just some of the many benefits available at no charge to ARRL members. To sign up for any of the League's newsletters, go to the Member Data page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

* Gary L. Robinson, WB8ROL, Wins December QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for December is Gary L. Robinson, WB8ROL, for his article "Ghost QSOs -- Olivia Returns from the Noise." Congratulations, Gary! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the January issue by Saturday, January 31.

* The 2008 ARRL Periodicals on CD-ROM Now Shipping: The 2008 ARRL Periodicals on CD-ROM <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9406#top> is now available and includes the complete 2008 fully searchable collection of three ARRL journals -- QST, QEX, and National Contest Journal (NCJ). In addition, the CD-ROM includes source code for software projects and PC board patterns, Section News, as well as the ever-popular Contest Soapbox and Contest Results. Search the full text of every article by entering titles, call signs or names. See every word, photo -- most in color -- drawing and table in technical and general-interest features, columns and product reviews, plus all advertisements. Print what you see, or copy it into other applications. System requirements: Microsoft Windows and Macintosh systems, using the industry standard Adobe Acrobat Reader software. CD-ROMs for other years are also available <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-PER#top>.

* New QSL Tracking Service in Chile: Have you sent a QSL to Chile but had no reply? Perhaps you had a contact with XQ, CE, CA, CD, XR, 3G or CC that has not been confirmed. According to David Calderwood, CE2WZ/GW4VHO, a group of Chilean amateurs has offered to try and help obtain missing cards by carrying out searches and making enquiries in Chile. To use this free service, please contact Jose Luis Jimenez, CE1KR, via e-mail <ce1kr.joseluis@gmail.com>. You can write to him in Spanish or English. Full details on this service are available on the Hunting QSL Cards Web site <http://hunting-qsl.blogspot.com/>.

* Son Charged with Murder of Florida Ham: Robert Farley, of Lakeland Florida, has been charged with first degree murder in the death of his father Walter Farley, K4QE, also of Lakeland. "The Ledger," a newspaper in Farley's hometown, reported that authorities allege that Robert killed his father New Year's Eve during an argument over family matters. Walter Farley was 93. Authorities said that on Saturday, January 3, Robert Farley confessed to the killing and led detectives to a lake where he had discarded the murder weapon; the weapon was recovered by dive team members later that afternoon. Walter Farley served in the US

Army during World War II as a telephone and radio repairman. He fixed tape recorders for the blind and was involved with the local historical society. A member of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, Walter was active on local Nets.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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13. Re: PSK31 contests and contest etiquette?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-10 17:01:10 UTC
From: Doug Smith <joe@somewhere.invalid>
Message-ID: <8fadnbcgsLpXTfXUnZ2dnUVZ_sudnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2223

On Thu, 08 Jan 2009 18:32:56 -0500, KC4UAI wrote:
> In general, it's simply not necessary to run the legal limt. Running
> PSK31 takes up very little bandwidth and most of us guys are going to b
e
> running less than 100W (more like 40W for me) because that's what your
> avarage rig does. Stuffing all that power in such a small bandwidth
> makes your signal much stronger than if you spread it all out over 3Khz
> used for SSB. An amp might be nice from time to time, but I wonder how
> often you would really need it.

I think the problem you'd have running more than 50 watts peak is that
you'd "get out" a lot better than you could hear -- there would be people

calling you who would be too weak to copy. Only once do I recall ever
seeing anyone running more than 50 watts on PSK.

(he was running 400 watts - and was in fact quite clean..)

--
/home/w9wi/.sig

14. Ft. Myers ARC hamfest and ARRL South Florida Section Convention Jan 17.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-11 02:19:04 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <gkbi0a$i1c$1@panix5.panix.com>
Source record: 2224
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.swap,rec.radio.info

Attention all hams in the SouthEast USA:

Reserve the date: SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2009 8 AM TO 3 PM

For the Ft. Myers ARC hamfest and ARRL South Florida Section Convention.

Araba Shrine Auditorium

2010 Hanson Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Talk-In Repeater: 146.880 (136.5 Tone)

Huge flea market in the Auditorium and parking lot.

See: http://fmarc.net/hamfest_2009.htm for more details and directions.

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

15. Re: PSK31 contests and contest etiquette?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-14 19:27:40 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <5be00ed0-4642-4552-9bed-c15b17ee7742@x8g2000yqk.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2225

You point out a very good point that some don't seem to get. It's the antenna that really makes the differance. Power is nice, but if your antenna is garbage, who cares? Usually any $$ spent on antennas will produce more signal at the receiver than the same $$ spent on amps.

-= bob =-

On Jan 10, 11:01 am, Doug Smith <j...@somewhere.invalid> wrote:
> On Thu, 08 Jan 2009 18:32:56 -0500, KC4UAI wrote:
> > In general, it's simply not necessary to run the legal limt. Running
> > PSK31 takes up very little bandwidth and most of us guys are going to b
> e
> > running less than 100W (more like 40W for me) because that's what your
> > avarage rig does. Stuffing all that power in such a small bandwidth
> > makes your signal much stronger than if you spread it all out over 3Khz
> > used for SSB. An amp might be nice from time to time, but I wonder how
> > often you would really need it.
>
> I think the problem you'd have running more than 50 watts peak is that
> you'd "get out" a lot better than you could hear -- there would be people
>
> calling you who would be too weak to copy. Only once do I recall ever
> seeing anyone running more than 50 watts on PSK.
>
> (he was running 400 watts - and was in fact quite clean..)
>
> --
> /home/w9wi/.sig

16. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-15 07:00:05 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1232002801@panix.com>
Source record: 2226
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.8 2008/11/27 18:50:32
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations | campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or | reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be | permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked | to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such | products or services. |

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. | However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information | is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing | thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no | information about what a user should expect to find there will be | rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for | rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which | itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as | a URL containing embedded name-calling). |

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar

government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

17. Re: PSK31 contests and contest etiquette?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-16 03:33:49 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <54pvm4t78vk4uki6odijmp7sqcmge00bco@4ax.com>
Source record: 2227

On Wed, 14 Jan 2009 14:27:40 EST, KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote:

>You point out a very good point that some don't seem to get. It's the
>antenna that really makes the differance. Power is nice, but if your
>antenna is garbage, who cares? Usually any $$ spent on antennas will
>produce more signal at the receiver than the same $$ spent on amps.

Totally agree with that comment. Our local contest site is an
amateur on a farm with his nearest neighbour about a mile away. 14
towers last I heard including a 40 M and 80 M four square.

We're planning on operating there.

BTW I asked a nearby world class contester as to which the most
popular PSK31 contests. He stated the main one was the TARA Rumble
http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_rumble_rules.html. Any comments?

But that's a single op contest. We prefer the socializing and low key
beer drinking nature of multi op contests. <smile>

Tony

18. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1640 - January 16 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-16 10:58:19 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090116025152.0160fa10@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2228
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1640 - January 16 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Ladies and gentlemen, Amateur Radio Newsline's support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

Yep its me -- A.J. And if Im here its because Amateur Radio Newsline is in desparate need of your support.

Amateur Radio Newsline has only received enough financial support of late to keep the service going for another month or so. In other words, most of the bills from last year have been paid , but now money has to be raised to keep from loosing the phones and e-mail service from bills accrued in December.

Right now Newsline continues to exist on a week to week basis. He says that It is up to you and the listeners to see that it can continue to provide this vital service. Otherwise he may soon be forced to pull the plug.

Please help us to keep The Amateur Radio Newsline on the air. Our address is the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937 in Arcadia California. The zipcode is 91066. Again and as always, we thank you.

For the support fund, I'm Andy Jarema N6TCQ

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1640 with a release date of Friday, January 16th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The National Safety Council says its time to ban all mobile cellphone operations. Would such a measure impact on mobile ham radio operations? Also, a study by the National Academy of Sciences says that the coming solar cycle maximum could cause havoc to communications, President-elect Barack Obama makes his choice for the next FCC Chairman and an earthquake in Costa Rica leads to a communications emergency declaration on a 40 meter frequency. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1640 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO SAFETY: NSC WANTS TOTAL BAN ON MOBILE CELLPHONE USE

The National Safety Council is calling for a total nationwide driver ban on the use of cell phones including hands-free devices. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, reports:

--

In an announcement on Monday, January 12th, the National Safety Council not only issued a plea directly to motorists to stop using the devices, but also urged businesses to enact policies limiting the use of cell phones by their employees. The Congressionally-chartered agency also called on states to pass more laws banning the use of wireless communications devices while driving.

California, Washington state, Alaska, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, Minnesota, and New Jersey all have laws on the books that ban the use of a mobile phone without a hands-free device. But the Councils proposal wants to eliminate even these hands-free exemptions.

The National Safety Council news release does not mention Ham radio, C-B radio or any other two-way radio based application other than cellphones and text messaging. However in mustering support for its campaign, the organization cites numerous studies including one by the Harvard Center of Risk Analysis. That one found that driver use of cell phones contributes to 636,000 crashes each year. This it says leads to 12,000 serious injuries and 2,600 annual deaths.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

Needless to say, all two way mobile radio users, including hams, will have to watch carefully for any state or federal laws that might develop out of the National Safety Council total cellphone ban request. (Published news reports)

**

RECUE RADIO: COSTA RICA QUAKE LEADS TO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DECLARATION

A magnitude 6 point 2 earthquake that hit the Central American country of Costa Rica on Thursday, January 8, has brought a declaration of a communications emergency for a ham radio frequency. The Radio Club de Costa Rica, which is that country's IARU member society, says that it is monitoring local repeaters and 7 dot 090 MHz on 40 meters. Because of this, IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, requested that 7 point 090 MHz be kept clear of non-essential traffic due to possible emergency communications dealing with the earthquake.

The temblor, with an epicenter located about 22 miles northeast of the city of San Jose hit after a series of seismic events rocked the country in recent days. Until an all clear is issued, hams not involved in the current emergency should avoid interfering with Spanish language SSB operations while they are using digital modes. (ARRL, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NEW STUDY SAYS SOLAR STORMS COULD BRING DISASTER

A new study from the National Academy of Sciences outlines dire consequences on Earth for a worst-case scenario giant solar storm. Scientists involved in the study say that damage to power grids and other communications systems could be catastrophic. Even ham radio would be affected. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, has the rest of the story:

--

While the sun is in now in a lull period, solar activity is expected to rise sharply in coming years and what is known as severe space weather will ramp up a year or two before the peak in 2012. At its worst, severe space weather in the form of solar flares and other phenomena can produce a storm electromagnetic energy. Once it hits Earth it can disrupt power distribution grids and cause blackouts and also downgrade both terrestrial wire-line and satellite to ground communications.

Severe solar storms can even damage satellites if they are not fully hardened against radiation. Ground based communications, especially on the High Frequency bands used by most radio amateurs would also be adversely impacted during such a solar event.

Daniel Baker, the director of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado in Boulder was the lead researcher in this study. He says that in the event of a high magnitude solar storm that the social impact could be enormous. This is because emergency services could wind up being strained, and command and control might be lost.

The National Academy of Sciences says that its prediction is based in part on a major solar assault back in 1859. That storm is believed to be the reason that telegraph systems short circuited in both the United States and Europe. According to the new study with the advent of modern computer controlled power grids and relay satellites on-orbit, much more is at risk.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

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The report was commissioned and funded by NASA. Experts from around the world in industry, government and academia participated. More is on line at
http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,478024,00.html
and
http://in.news.yahoo.com/139/20090109/981/tsc-future-solar-storm-could-shut-down-u.html
(Science OnLine)

**

RESTRUCTURING: MODIFIED REGION 1 BANDPLANS NOW ON LINE

A revised IARU region one bandplan is now available on the Radio Society of Great Britain's website. The new plans are based on the outcome of the 2008 IARU Region 1 General Conference. That gathering lead to changes to some of the plans that are now available to all in both PDF and HTML

formats from www.rsgb.org/spectrumforum/bandplans/ (Southgate)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: HAM RADIO AND THE INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

Amateur Radio will be a part of the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States. At least it will be vicariously. This, with word that the District of Columbia Amateur Radio Society will be on the air with special event station W3A in honor of the inauguration of Barack Obama as the nationï¿½s new leader.

W3A will be on the air during the week of January 17th to the 24th on all bands, but likely concentrating on 80, 40 and 20 meters. And, if you make contact with W3A you should send your QSL to either W3DQ with a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope, via the bureau or electronically, using Logbook of the World. (N0DRC)

**

RADIO POLITICS: PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA TO NAME GENACHOWSKI TO CHAIR FCC

Several news reports say that President-elect Barack Obama plans to nominate a key technology advisor to be the next chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. The person expected to get the top FCC post is Julius Genachowski, who held several positions at the FCC during the administration of President Bill Clinton.

Genachowski served as an executive at I-A-C InterActive Corp. from 1997 to 2005 and as a law clerk at the Supreme Court from 1992 to 1994. He and the President-elect were friends at Harvard Law School.

The Obama team would not confirm earlier reports of the planned appointment. The person knowledgeable about the plans to nominate Genachowski spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not been formally announced. (Various)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W7FTX Bitterroot Amateur Radio Club repeater, serving Hamilton, Montana.

(5 sec pause here)

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COMMUNICATIONS LAW: FTC SHUTS DOWN SCAREWARE SELLERS

The US government has moved to shut down sellers of fake security software. This, as the Federal Trade Commission announces that it has won a restraining order that stops several sellers of scareware from continuing to market their wares. Rebecca Bruce is here with the details:

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Scareware is software that misleads a computer user into believing that his system may be infected with viruses, spyware or other malicious programs that could harm or destroy data. Now, a U S District court has granted an injunction which stops Innovative Marketing and Byte Hosting Internet Services from continuing to advertise their products, and from making what the Federal Trade Commission says are false claims about their efficacy.

Court papers submitted by the FTC assert that the peddlers of the fake security software first trick legitimate websites into advertising their products. Then, anyone clicking on a scareware advertisement is then taken to the webpages run by the fake security firms. There a so-called scan of the consumers hard drive takes place looking for security problems. The FTC claims that every scan finds a host of security problems like viruses and spyware and urges visitors to buy their brand of software to fix them.

The Federal Trade Commission says that it is pursuing further legal action to win a permanent ban on those peddling the scareware. It has also asked firms hosting the websites owned by these firms to block customers from accessing them while at the same time freezing the assets of the two companies. This, so that it can reclaim cash and refund those were caught in the alleged scam. The government says that the possibility exists that millions of people may have been caught by the many scareware schemes that are roaming the Internet these days.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rebecca Bruce, in Los Angeles.

--

While the Federal Trade Commission can shut down scareware sellers here in the United States, it will have a lot harder time with those who operate overseas, especially in countries that spend little time in oversight of Internet based business. (BBC, others)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO CITIZENS CHALLENGE OF RADIO STATION LICENSE

A citizens request that the FCC deny the renewal of the license of a non-commercial radio station has been turned down by the agency. This, as the FCC tells William Crozier of Union City, Oklahoma, that his challenge amounts to little more than a difference of opinion with Creative Educational Media Corporation, Inc., over what types of programming best serve the needs of the community of Moore, Oklahoma.

Way back on January 24, 2005, Creative Educational Media filed for renewal of the license of its non-commercial educational station KMSI-FM. On April 29, 2005, William Crozier filed an informal objection alleging that Creative lacked local programming and challenging its non-profit status. Creative filed its opposition on May 12, 2005. The FCC agreed with Creative, and on July 13, 2007, it released a Staff Decision which both denied Crozier's objection and granted the KMSI renewal application. At that time the FCC said that there was no substantial and material

question of fact that grant of the renewal application would be inconsistent with the Communications Act.

On August 21, 2007 Crozier filed a Petition for Reconsideration still claiming that Creative still lacked local programming. Now, in its January 9, 2009 announcement, the FCC notes that Crozier's Petition was late-filed and was being dismissed on that basis. The FCC adds that this action is consistent with the D.C. Circuit's decisions on whether the Commission has failed to adhere to its procedural rules for providing notice of its decisions. It notes that no such circumstances are present here. (FCC)

**

THE DTV TRANSITION: THE FEBRUARY 17 DTV SWITCH DATE MAY SLIP

President-elect Barack Obama is urging Congress to postpone the February 17 Digital Television switch date. This, for fear that too many people aren't ready. Obama has been joined by a small chorus of U-S Senators and Representatives, including Representative Ed Markey of Massachusetts. Markey is Chair of the House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Each has his or her own reason to hold off on fully implementing the new technology until various real or perceived hurdles can be overcome.

Also joining the call to delay the February 17th date is Detroit Mayor Ken Cockrel Jr. In a letter to FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, a Federal Communications Commissioner, Cockrel said despite a massive outreach effort to get converter boxes in the hands of those who still use a television antenna to receive a signal, too many would be left with no television service when the changeover occurs. Cockrel claims that seniors, the poor and first-generation immigrants especially would be hit hard.

The politically powerful Consumers Union also wants the transition put on hold. In a letter sent to a number of key government officials, the Consumers Union suggested the government's inability to issue new coupons, on top of concerns about the number of call centers and the amount of assistance to viewers, should prompt a re-examination of the switchover date.

However, a delay is not a certainty at this time, so the only conservative course of action is to stick with the current February 17th DTV switch plans unless and until an official postponement is announced. (CGC, others)

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THE DTV TRANSITION: DTV HELP GROUPS CHOSEN BY FCC

Delay or no delay, the FCC has identified a dozen grassroots groups that will get $8.4 million in Digital TV education money from the regulatory agency. The groups will be using the funds to conduct seminars, help viewers buy and install Digital -to-analog converter boxes, provide call centers, and more. Jeff Clark, K8JAC, has the details:

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According to the Waveform broadcast industry newsletter, the largest grant of $2,719,947 is going to the American Association of Retied People. AARP will use it to create call centers targeted at senior citizens.

In addition to AARP, others getting funds include Communications Services for the Deaf, the Hispanic Information and Telecommunication Network, The Mayor's Commission on Technology, noncommercial station WXXI, Iowa Public Broadcasting Board, Idaho Public Television, and several others. The FCC says it looked for groups who would target key populations such as minorities, senior citizens and the disabled who are most at risk of losing over-the-air TV service or most in need of help to continue to receive a TV signal. It also looked for organizations that could focus on the 82 markets with the greatest number of over-the-air analog viewers.

The money for this project comes from $20 million Congress appropriated last year for Digital TV outreach. President Elect Barack Obama's transition team has been pushing the FCC and broadcasters to make sure there are enough people answering the millions of phone calls expected from viewers in the days surrounding the February 17th transition from analog to planned Digital-only broadcasting of TV.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeff Clartl, K8JAC

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You may recall that last December the ARRL announced that amateur radio clubs across the country were being asked to voluntarily develop and implement plans to provide information throughout January and February regarding assistance in the Digital Television conversion in their geographic areas. At that time the FCC said that it was leaving it up to the clubs to decide how to do this. This because it felt that local groups can understand the communities in ways that the FCC does not. As of airtime, several ham radio groups have offered their services and according to news stories, all are getting very high marks from their local communities for their work (Waveform, FCC)

**

THE DTV TRANSITION: FIRST RESPONDERS WANT EXEMPTION FROM ANY DTV DELAY

Meantime, public-safety organizations asked President-elect Barack Obama to exclude spectrum designated for first responders in any plan to delay the transition to digital television next month. The Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council have communicated their view to the President-elect. They say that an important benefit of the Digital Television transition is that it clears spectrum in the 700 MHz band for new interoperable radio communications systems for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical and other public-safety agencies.

The groups also note that all fifty states have already received licenses to operate in portions of the reallocated analog television spectrum. They say that many agencies across the nation have already acquired radios

capable of operating in the 700 MHz band. They also note that there is also at least one and perhaps a couple other instances in which a public-safety agency has received or is currently seeking special FCC authority to utilize spectrum on a television channel being relinquished as a result of the Digital TV transition. (RCR, DTV News, others)

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RADIO BUSINESS: OVER 1 MILLION HD RADIO MODULES MANUFACTURED

Ibiquity Digital says that, as of early October, 2008, more than 1 million H D Radio modules have been manufactured for retail radio receivers. This, using the Texas Instruments D-R-I Series chipsets.

Original equipment module manufacturers using the chipsets include Kwang Sung Electronics, LG Innotek, Powertech, Samsung EM, TOKO and Wistron NeWeb. These modules are used in products from Audiovox, Alpine, Coby, CSW, Denon, Dual, Harman/JBL, Insignia, Jensen, JVC, jWIN, Marantz, Onkyo, Pioneer, Polk, Radio Shack, Sangean and Yamaha.

An Ibiquity company spokesman says that this reflects a steady increase in product development that will translate into retail sales during 2009 and beyond. (RW)

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HAM RAFDIO ON THE NET: CQ ANNOUNCES NEW WORLRADIO ON-LINE SIGN-UP LIST

CQ Magazine announced a new e-mail list has been established to notify readers of the availability of each new issue of its latest acquisition, WorldRadio magazine. CQ bought WorldRadio last month and is in the process of converting it to a free online-only publication. You may sign up for the list at several websites all of which can be found at http://mailman.sunserver.com/mailman/listinfo/WorldRadio-L . Direct links to this signup page will be posted on both the CQ magazine website at http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com and the old WorldRadio website at http://www.wr6wr.com . (CQ)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM IN SPACE HISTORY: REWIND TO 1985 AND STS51F

Word that some long-lost 1985 news footage showing kids in New York City trying to contact Astronaut Tony England, W0ORE, during the STS 51 F

shuttle flight has surfaced. You guessed it -- its surfaced on YouTube.com.

The clips are from New York City's Channel 4 WNBC, and Channel 7 WABC. They contains shots of the station set-up at the Rocco Laurie Intermediate School on Staten Island, along with conversations with some of the youngsters waiting for the pass to start and for W-Zero-O-R-E's signal from space to come booming in. Also interviewed is educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP, who for years taught a ham radio class at the school.

From a historical perspective these news clips are a lot of fun to watch. This is especially true if you were a ham back then and tried to contact W0ORE during the STS 51F mission. But you had better act fast to take a look. With media companies becoming activists in protecting their intellectual copyrights, news clips like these seem to disappear from YouTube almost as fast as they are posted.

And one final thought. Those news stories were taped some 23 years ago. The kids you see are now adults who are likely married with families of their own. We can only imagine the pride some of them might feel sitting in front of their computer with their own kids and telling them that was the day when mommy or daddy spoke to a man in space.

We have one direct link to these news clips at
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hf839lfdO90,
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHvRDLq-swk
and http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeU13Iv4nYM (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: JAPAN TO LAUNCH 7 HAM RADIO MICROSATS

Japan is about to orbit a constellation of small ham radio satellites. JE9PEL has sent out a launch alert for seven tiny Cubesat amateur radio satellites planned as secondary payloads. This, when Japan launches its GOSAT IBUKI satellite on January 21st.

GOSAT stands for Greenhouse gases Observing Satellite, and is an environmental monitoring satellite. It, along with the ham radio payloads, will be launched from Japan's Tanegashima Space Center aboard the H-IIA F15 booster slated for liftoff at 03:54 UTC. .

More news about the 7 Cubesats is expected shortly. Information about the primary GOSAT mission and the launch vehicle carrying all the birds into space can be found on-line at
http://www.jaxa.jp/countdown/f15/overview/ibuki_e.html
http://www.jaxa.jp/projects/sat/gosat/index_e.html Information about the launch vehicle can be found on-line at:
http://www.jaxa.jp/countdown/f15/overview/h2a_e.html) (ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT: CHILIAN HAMS TO ASSIST IN MISSING QSL PROCESS

Turning to news from around the world, a group of Chilean radio amateurs is offering to try to help obtain a missing card or cards by carrying out searches and making inquires in Chile. This service is offered as a goodwill gesture by some Chilean hams and is completely free. To use the service you need to contact Josï¿½ Luis Jimï¿½nez. His email address is ce1kr
(dot) joseluis (at) gmail (dot) com. You can write to him in Spanish or English. Full details are available on the website http://hunting-qsl (dot) blogspot (dot) com (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT: REPORT ON BROADCASTS TO CUBA ISSUED BY STATE DEPARTMENT

The United States funded broadcasts to Cuba as Radio and Television Marti have improved significantly in recent years. This, according to a draft State Department review of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting. But it is unclear as to how many people are watching and listening to the stations that are designed to offer an alternative to the tightly controlled Cuban media.

The report was made public late month on the eve of a congressional debate over future Cuba-related funding. It cites a boost in the ability of TV Marti's signals to reach Cuba, but it bases those conclusions on anecdotal evidence not included in the report.

The review lauded the broadcasting office's use of a Gulfstream jet to beam signals into Cuba. It stated that this system held the potential of being replicated in other parts of the world where governments attempt to block U.S. broadcasts.

Radio and TV Marti are requesting $33 million in this fiscal year's budge. Thats, down from $38 million they received in 2007. (RW)

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RADIO AWARDS: CQ TO ACCEPT EQSL FOR AWARDS PROGRAMS

CQ magazine says that effective immediately it will begin accepting contact confirmations made on the eQSL electronic Q-S-O validation system for its operating awards. According to CQ editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, there will be certain limitations and procedural differences for different awards, at least to start. Only confirmations from "Authenticity Guaranteed" members of eQSL will be accepted. This means that in accordance with existing eQSL policy, a membership level of bronze or higher is required in order to participate in award programs via eQSL.

According to Moseson, this is the first time that CQ has formally accepted anything other than traditional paper QSL cards for its awards. He says that CQ has been working with eQSL's Dave Morris, N5UP, and his team for several months to assure that the integrity of the awards programs will be protected. They also had to create mechanisms to make it easy for both award applicants and managers to use eQSL credits toward CQ-sponsored awards.

More information about how the CQ eQSL-based system will work is on line on the awards page at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. Information on eQSL is on the world-wide-web at www.eqsl.cc. (CQ)

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DX

In DX, word that Vietnam is back on the air. This as OM2DX reports that he is now in Hanoi and is working for the Embassy of the Slovak Republic. Mike has obtained a license with the callsigns XV9DX and 3W1M. He is expected to be there for the next 3 years and be active on all bands using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL via OM3JW.

KK9A says that he will be active from Aruba as P40A during the ARRL DX SSB Contest. That's March 7th and 8th. John says that he will operate as a Single-Operator All-Band entry. QSL him via WD9DZV.

And F5LGQ will be active from Reunion Island as TO4IPA through January 31st. If you make contact please QSL as directed on the air.

An international group of YLs will activate the Falkland Islands (SA-002) between January 17th and the 31st. Each operator will be signing with the callsign VP8YL, plus a third letter of the suffix that will be assigned at beginning of the operation. QSL via the operator's home callsign as directed on the air.

8Q7AK will be operational through January 27th from Embudu Island in the Maldives. He will use SSB and CW on 40 through to 10 meters including WARC frequencies. For comprehensive details of operating times, suggested frequencies and QSL information, please check 8Q7AK on QRZ.COM

A group of Chilean operators from the Atacama region will activate special event station XR27RAID through January 24th. This outing is in celebration of the 27th Raid Atacama Desert Trophy which takes place from January 20th to the 25th. Operations will be on all bands using CW, SSB and PSK. QSL via HA1AG, either direct or via the Bureau.

And the E44M operation from Palestine is now QRT. If you made contact with E44M you can either QSL direct, by the Bureau or electronically using Logbook to the World. An online log search is available at www.hamradioweb.org/e44mlogsearch.html

Above from various DX news sources.

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THAT FINAL ITEM: RADIO FROM SPACE: NASA BALLOON FINDS NEW SPACE QRN

And finally this week, listening to the early universe has become a lot harder. This, as a team led by researcher Alan Kogut of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, announces the discovery of cosmic radio noise that is at least six times louder than expected. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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The finding comes from a balloon carried instrument named ARCADE. ARCADE stands for the Absolute Radiometer for Cosmology, Astrophysics, and Diffuse Emission. In July 2006, the instrument flew to an altitude of 120,000 feet, where its mission was to search the sky for heat from the first generation of stars. Instead, it found a cosmic puzzle.

Instead of the faint signal researchers hoped to find, it heard what Kogut called a booming noise six times louder than anyone had predicted. Detailed analysis ruled out an origin from primordial stars or from any known radio sources, including gas in the outermost halo of our own galaxy. As of now. Kogut says that the source of this cosmic radio background remains a mystery.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles

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Many objects in the universe emit radio waves. In 1931, American physicist Karl Jansky first detected radio static from our own Milky Way galaxy. Similar emissions from other galaxies creates a background hiss type QRN, as its radio noise. (Goddard Space Flight Center News Release)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only
official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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19. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 3 (Friday, January 16, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-16 21:18:44 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090116210937.7E91B31137@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2229
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 2
January 16, 2009
***************

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* + Julius Genachowski Reportedly Picked as New FCC Chairman
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* + FCC License Activity on the Rise
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+ David J. Strout Sr, W2YC, #1 Triple Play
+ ARES E-Letter Gets New Look
Yaesu Donation
New Section Manager Appointed in Wyoming
Everett "Curly" Silva, K7HRW (SK)

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane,
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> FCC CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

The Aspen Institute, a non-partisan think-tank, announced on Thursday,
January 15 that FCC Chairman Kevin Martin will join their group as a
Senior Fellow in the Communications and Society Program on Tuesday,
January 20, immediately upon his departure from the FCC. According to
the Institute, Martin will be the fourth consecutive FCC Chairman to
make the move to the group: Democrats Reed Hundt (1993-97) and William
Kennard (1997-2001), as well as Republican Michael Powell (2001-05) have
accepted fellowships with the Institute upon leaving the FCC. Julius
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Genachowski is expected to succeed Martin at the FCC <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=huLWJeMRKpH&b=4863373&ct=6603329> (see following story).

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that Martin's resignation is part of the "usual stuff we see when a new administration comes to office. We look forward to a positive relationship with the new Chairman and his administration."

In his letter of resignation to President Bush, Martin wrote, "I have had the privilege of serving at the Federal Communications Commission for almost eight years, including four years as the agency's Chairman. During this period, we have seen a telecommunications industry undergoing rapid and unprecedented change. As a result of the market-oriented and consumer focused policies we have pursued the American people are now reaping the rewards of convergence and the broadband revolution including new and more innovative technologies and services at ever-declining prices."

Chairman Martin stated that his philosophy during his tenure at the FCC "has been to pursue deregulation while paying close attention to its impact on consumers and the particulars of a given market, to balance deregulation with consumer protection" <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC_MartinResigns.DOC >. He said that he "approached his decisions with a fundamental belief that a robust, competitive marketplace, not regulation, is ultimately the best protector of the public interest and the best method of delivering the benefits of choice, innovation, and affordability to American consumers."

Martin said that during his tenure at the FCC, "the Commission has focused on establishing the appropriate regulatory environment that achieves the right balance between two competing interests: To encourage investment in communications infrastructure, and to make sure consumers and innovation are not unintentionally or intentionally disadvantaged by the owners of that infrastructure."

Martin was a strong advocate of BPL technology, as was his predecessor, Michael Powell, but the limited number of BPL deployments show that BPL is not the success story it was hoped to be. "The technical problems of trying to get BPL to run reliably on wires that were never intended to carry high-speed digital signals make BPL less reliable than other technologies," said ARRL Laboratory Manager and BPL expert Ed Hare, W1RFI. "When coupled with poor rules that encouraged interference problems, BPL was given a poor start that it has never completely overcome." The ARRL has never been opposed to BPL per se, except when the technology causes harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service.

Under his chairmanship, Martin said the Commission "acted to level the playing field so that all entrants could fairly compete, facilitating increased investment in the next generation of communications infrastructure, [while at the same time, I] was able to push for more

open platforms to spur innovation on the edges of these networks and deliver lower prices, improved services and greater choice to consumers."

Executive Director of the Aspen Institute's Communications and Society Program Charles Firestone said that "Chairman Martin has been a longtime participant in Aspen Institute forums. We look forward to working with him and to the advice he will give us." Martin said he, too, looks forward to his time with the Institute: "I have long enjoyed and respected the Communications and Society Program, and I will relish the opportunity to reflect on the nature of leadership that I exercised in this field for the past several years." According to their Web site, The Aspen Institute is based in Washington, DC, Colorado and Maryland.

==> JULIUS GENACHOWSKI REPORTEDLY PICKED AS NEW FCC CHAIRMAN

Democratic sources are reporting that President-elect Barack Obama has selected Julius Genachowski, 45, a technology executive and former classmate from Harvard Law School, to lead the Federal Communications Commission. If confirmed by the Senate, Genachowski would replace current Chairman Kevin Martin (see above story).

After graduating from law school, Genachowski clerked for federal judge Abner Mikva; he also clerked for Supreme Court Justice David Souter. Genachowski later served as chief counsel to Reed Hundt, chairman of the FCC from 1993-1997. After leaving the FCC, Genachowski was a senior executive at IAC/InterActiveCorp, Barry Diller's e-commerce and media company. He went on to found an investment and advisory firm for digital media companies and co-founded the country's first commercial "green" bank. According to Obama's Web site, Genachowski raised at least $500,000 for Obama during the presidential election campaign.

Referring to the management practices of current FCC Chairman Martin, ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "We can only hope that under the new chairman, the FCC bureaus and offices that deal with Amateur Radio issues will be empowered to do their jobs without clearing every detail through the Chairman's office."

Early in the Obama presidential campaign, Genachowski urged the candidate to capitalize on the organizing power of the Internet. The New York Times <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/g/julius_genachowski/index.html?inline=nyt-per> called Genachowski "a prolific fund-raiser and chairman of the campaign's group of technology-policy advisers, who produced a report advocating an open Internet, diversity in media ownership and a nationwide wireless system for emergency personnel." The Washington Post, which described Genachowski a "local venture capitalist," credits him with "spearheading Obama's online campaign strategy, which used social networking and other tools to spread Obama's campaign message and raise record campaign contributions" <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/12/AR2009011203417.html>.

The Post credited sources close to Obama's transition team who said that "Genachowski had been recently meeting with key Democratic lawmakers to see if the role of Chief Technology Officer would have policy-making authority and decided against taking the job when he realized the definition of CTO would not include a strong regulatory role. Instead, Genachowski expressed interest in the FCC [Chairmanship]" <http://voices.washingtonpost.com/the-trail/2008/12/18/_speculation_is_rife_in.html>.

Genachowski explained in his Obama campaign blog that he "was fortunate to chair the group that advised Senator Obama and the [presidential] campaign on the tech & innovation plan, a large and hardworking group that generated terrific ideas, rooted in the great work that the Senator and his strong Senate staff have been doing in this area for quite some time" <http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/blog/juliusgenachowski>.

According to Bloomberg.com, the FCC may turn to expanding Americans' access to high-speed Internet service once the pressure from the digital television transition eases: "Obama has made universal broadband a cornerstone of his plan to boost US competitiveness. It is 'unacceptable' that the nation ranks 15th worldwide in high-speed Internet adoption rates, he said in a December 6 speech. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, has said broadband funds will be part of the economic stimulus package Congress intends to take up this month."

==> DELTA DIVISION LEADERSHIP ATTENDS ORIENTATION WORKSHOP AT ARRL HQ

Just prior to the ARRL Board of Directors 2009 Annual Meeting, the newly elected leadership team in the ARRL's Delta Division -- Director Mickey Cox, K5MC, and Vice Director David Norris, K5UZ -- made their way to Newington for a day of orientation to learn the "ins and outs" of the ARRL Board and ARRL Headquarters operation. The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut. Cox was previously Section Manager of the Louisiana Section; Norris was Section Manager of the Arkansas Section when he was elected to his new position.

According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "The new Board members came to Newington to learn not only how the Board functions, but to see what each department does and how it interacts with and serves both Amateur Radio and ARRL members, through our five pillars: Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology and Membership. I am pleased they came to see how we support Amateur Radio each and every day here at ARRL HQ."

One of the highlights of the group's visit to Headquarters was a tour of the ARRL Lab. Ed Hare, W1RFI, ARRL Laboratory Manager, explained the function of the Lab and its staff: "We showed them how we support Amateur Radio through the Technical Information Service, product review testing, RFI issues such as power line noise, and support for spectrum defense, including BPL issues."

Cox said, "This is my third trip to ARRL Headquarters -- I came first as a new Section Manager in 2001, and again in 2005 to discuss lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina. I've always loved coming to Headquarters. I am learning a lot today about how to be a Division Director. So far, there have been no big surprises, as it is pretty much what I thought it would be. I'm looking forward to the meetings this weekend and serving the amateurs in the Delta Division as their Director for the next few years."

Norris concurred: "I first came to ARRL Headquarters in September 2005. Like Mickey, I came to the orientation that HQ staff holds for new Section Managers. This visit has been a little more in-depth; I've seen more of the operational side of Headquarters this time around. From my first visit, I had a pretty good idea of what the staff does, but now I really get what they do for the members and the amateur community as a whole. I think every member needs to come up here and see what exactly goes on at Headquarters. I think they will gain a new appreciation for the League."

==> FCC LICENSE ACTIVITY ON THE RISE

According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, there continues to be a heightened interest in Amateur Radio following the FCC's elimination of the Morse code exam requirement in February 2007: "The number of new license applicants remains strong under the new Amateur Radio Service rules. The following table chronicles all 14 FCC authorized VEC organizations' new license activity over the last few years." In 2008, the total number of US amateurs rose 1.2 percent, from 655,800 in 2007, to 663,500 in 2008:

New Amateur Totals 2006 through November 2008		
Month	2006	2007	2008
Jan	1274	1647	1755
Feb	1605	2435	2998
Mar	2531	3478	2816
Apr	1728	2673	3090
May	2283	2607	2562
Jun	1967	2281	2402
Jul	1401	1786	2077
Aug	1623	2183	2084
Sep	1357	1462	1763
Oct	1781	2109	2303
Nov	1993	2132	2197
Dec	1569	1935	2019
Totals:	21,112	26,728	28,066

Somma said that the number of General and Extra class upgrades is also on the rise. "When looking at 2006 totals," she said, "we see that upgrade applications for 2007 were up 286 percent; in 2008, they were up 146 percent over 2006. Requests for new club licenses also remain strong. In 2008, we had 671 applications for club licenses come in, while in 2007, there were 506 applications. That's an increase of 133 percent."

Calling it a "ripple effect," Somma said that the number of amateurs who want to be volunteer examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up. "Here at the ARRL VEC, we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as examiners and instructors," she said.

Somma further broke down the numbers to show the approximate number of licensees per FCC license class:

Novice: 18,500
Technician: 322,500
General: 145,000
Advanced: 62,000
Extra: 115,500
Total US Amateurs: 663,500

"I can think back to the mid 1980s when there were approximately 450,000 US Amateurs," Somma recalled. "These are the highest numbers of General and Extra class licensees I have ever seen." As of April 15, 2000, the FCC no longer issues Novice or Advanced class licenses. "As expected, the number of Novice and Advanced class licensees has decreased," she said. "As I look toward 2009, I see Amateur Radio growing in a positive direction." -- Some information provided by Joe Speroni, AH0A

==> LOOK FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The February issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of things that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Rick Campbell, KK7B, presents a homebrew project in the first of his two-part article "Designing and Building Transistor Linear Power Amplifiers." Juan Antonio Fernandez Montana, EA4CYQ, and Pedro Perez Alvarez-Cienfuegos, EB4DKA, look at "A Better Way to Work Low Earth Orbit FM Satellites." If you are concerned about how to get the best bang for your buck when it comes to your antenna system, be sure to check out "Keeping Current with Antenna Performance" by Eric P. Nichols, KL7J.

Speaking of antenna systems, you won't want to miss the helpful pointers provided by Ray Fallen, ND8L, in his article, "Homeowners Insurance and Your Antenna System." Robert Gulley, AK3Q, shows how a group of Kentucky hams brought Amateur Radio to a young audience in his article "Amateur Radio and Public Education Make a Bright Future." And just as hams light

the way for young people to get involved in ham radio, each year, the ARRL offers teachers a chance to get in on the fun, too! Find out more in "The ARRL Teachers Institute 2009," by ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME.

ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, reviews Tele-Post's LP-PAN Software Defined IQ Panadapter. According to Hallas, "The LP-PAN and associated software add a high performance panadpter and interactive computer control to the Elecraft K3 [reviewed in the January 2009 issue of QST] at a reasonable cost for those with a radio connected PC and quality sound interface." Be sure to check out the product reviews for the DV Dongle D-STAR Adapter and a variety of battery operated soldering tools, also in the February issue of QST.

If it's February, it must be time for the ARRL International DX Contest (CW) <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>. This is a great opportunity to contact many stations all over the world. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, explains in "This Month in Contesting" that you really don't need to win a contest to have fun. The results of the 2008 ARRL UHF Contest are in. Find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral and mark your contest calendar for 2009.

Of course, there are the usual columns you expect in the February issue of QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your February issue in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> AS STORMS PUMMELED NORTHWESTERN STATES, HAMS RESPONDED TO LOCAL NEEDS

After another week of wild weather in Oregon and Washington (January 7-9), residents in those states are just beginning to see the Sun. With an onslaught of wind, snow and rain this winter season, hams in the affected areas have been called upon by local served agencies to lend a hand. From providing 911 support to helping out with communications in area shelters, Amateur Radio operators have assisted since the beginning of the storm events <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/24/10525/>.

According to David Kidd, KA7OZO, District Emergency Coordinator for Oregon's District One <http://www.oregonaresd1.org/main.html>, the storms moved into his area on Wednesday, January 7 and continued throughout the rest of the week. ARES units in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties were activated in advance of the storms that brought flooding, mud slides, blocked roadways from downed trees, as well power outages.

In Clatsop County, Kidd said that amateurs assisted in the county's Emergency Operations Center, while in Columbia and Tillamook Counties,

the County Emergency Coordinator activated their local ARES units for the duration of the storms. "Columbia County deployed radio teams to four areas where they anticipated getting severe floods," Kidd told the ARRL. "These places can flood at the blink of an eyelash, so they pre-deployed hams to these areas."

Luckily for Oregonians, the storm tracked through Washington. "We were spared somewhat when the storm stalled over Washington," Kidd said. "Granted, we got a lot of wind and rain, but not like they did north of us. All the counties here are watching their rivers go down and are in some level of recovery mode."

In Lewis County, Washington, hams were prepared for the storms. On Wednesday, January 7, the Lewis County Board of County Commissioners declared the county a disaster area "due to exhausted resources and flood level predictions at or exceeding 1996, 2006, and 2007 flood levels." The Lewis County EOC placed Amateur Radio operators affiliated with local ARES units on standby.

According to Lewis County Emergency Management Deputy Director Ross McDowell, the unincorporated areas of Packwood and Randle had been without land-line telephone service since January 7. "Repairs cannot take place until the flood waters recede. This area is without 911 service due to all alternate facilities being under water. Ham operators/radios will be used in emergencies [to facilitate 911 services]."

On January 10, the Lewis County Department of Emergency Management expanded its use of RACES ham radio operators to stay in contact with the City of Centralia EOC and to continue communication with Morton, Randle and Packwood ham radio operators. RACES continued to provide support throughout the storm event.

The storm brought rain and high winds to Washington, causing widespread avalanches, mudslides, flooding and road closures, as the heavy snowfall that buried parts of the state began to melt rapidly. More than 30,000 people were told to leave their homes in flood-endangered areas across western Washington as authorities warned of heavy flooding.

Warmer temperatures and heavy rains were melting snow dumped on the mountains during the weekend storm, with 10 inches of snow melting in a 12 hour period at Snoqualmie Pass, about 50 miles east of Seattle. Throughout the state, about 60 highways were closed.

ARRL Eastern Washington Section Manager Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, reported that hams in Kittitas and Yakima Counties were on standby during the storms, but "Spokane is holding their own." ARRL Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, said, "So far, most of the problems are in Western Washington. We here in Seattle are cut off from the rest of the USA by landslides and avalanches to the east, and flooding to the south and north. All major highways are affected, as is all rail transportation. The only way out or in is via air. We had more

unexpected rain on Thursday, but it should clear up by the weekend."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Suns to light me rise" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: A nice sunspot group -- number 1010 -- appeared for five days from January 9-13. Daily sunspot numbers ranged from 11 to 20, and this one was another Solar Cycle 24 appearance. The Cycle 23 sunspots seem to be gone, while the new Solar Cycle 24 isn't picking up very quickly. 1010 was here for five days, following a whole solar rotation -- 27 days of no sunspots since 1009 was visible for just three days, December 10-12. Prior to that, there were 23 spotless days since seeing sunspot 1008, visible for eight days from November 10-17. Sunspot numbers for January 8-14 were 0, 14, 17, 20, 12, 11 and 0 with a mean of 10.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.7, 69.7, 70.9, 70, 69.3, 70.5 and 71.2 with a mean of 70. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 4, 2, 0, 3 and 5 with a mean of 3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 4, 2, 1, 0, 2 and 6 with a mean of 2.4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Alexander Pope's "An Essay on Man" <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/2428>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes is January 17-19. The LZ Open Contest is January 17. The North American QSO Party (SSB), the Hungarian DX Contest and the UK DX Contest (RTTY) are all January 17-18. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is January 19 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is January 22. Next week, the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is January 22 and the CQ 160 Meter Contest (CW) is January 23-25. The REF Contest (CW), BARTG RTTY Sprint, the UBA DX Contest (SSB) and the SPAR Winter Field Day are January 24-25. The SKCC Sprint is January 28. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, January 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, February 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Technician License Course; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses

are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* David J. Strout Sr, W2YC, #1 Triple Play: On Thursday, January 15, ARRL officials confirmed that David J. Strout Sr, W2YC, of Williamstown, New Jersey, is the recipient of the very first Triple Play Award <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>. "Strout received the final needed confirmation -- Hawaii on phone -- just at 2004 UTC on January 15," said ARRL Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z. "He applied for the award at 2007 UTC, and it was issued by the Awards Branch at about 2130 UTC." The Triple Play Award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after January 1, 2009 and must be confirmed via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

* ARES E-Letter Gets New Look: The ARRL ARES E-Letter <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/about.html>, published on the third Wednesday of each month, makes the move from a plain text formatted newsletter to an HTML format this month. The second of the ARRL e-letters to update its look (the ARRL Contest Update switched over to an HTML format in May 2008), the ARES E-Letter is distributed to 33,000 ARRL members. According to ARES E-Letter Editor Rick Palm, K1CE, "It's always scary messing with a good thing. I hope readers will like the look -- with photos, graphics and better readability. They can always opt for the old text version, too." The ARES E-Letter is a digest available via e-mail full of news and information of interest to active members of the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and to hams concerned with public service and emergency communications. E-mail newsletters, such as the ARES E-Letter, the Contest Update and The ARRL Letter, are just some of the many benefits available at no charge to ARRL members. To sign up for any of the League's newsletters, go to the Member Data page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

* W1AW Adds Yaesu's "Top-of-the-Line" Rig to Station: Thanks to the generosity of Yaesu, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, now boasts the Yaesu's premier transceiver -- an FTDX9000D <http://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=102&encP

rodID=28E11B5914B50E393EBF2BCAB2A6314C&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0>.
Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, Executive Vice President for Yaesu's
Amateur Radio Sales Division, visited ARRL Headquarters on January 13 to
present the radio. "Yaesu is very happy to present ARRL and the world
famous W1AW station with our top-of-the-line FTDX9000D transceiver,"
Motschenbacher said. "The transceiver comes loaded complete with
recently released PEP9000 performance enhancements designed to affirm
our commitment to Amateur Radio. We are very excited to know that the
ARRL will place this elite class transceiver in one of their visitor
operating studios, allowing many to have their first experience
operating one of our three models of FTDX9000 radios." W1AW Station
Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, thanked Yaesu for their donation of the
FTDX9000D transceiver to W1AW: "This radio is installed in Studio One
and is available for use to Amateur Radio operators visiting W1AW. In
addition, the FTDX9000 will be used as part of the contesting station
located in Studio One. With all its additional functions and features,
the FTDX9000 will certainly improve upon an operator's ability to
participate and be a worthy contestant!" Motschenbacher, who worked at
ARRL HQ before moving to Yaesu, remarked that returning to Newington to
make the presentation "was a wonderful personal experience for me. I was
so happy to see many old friends inside HQ, friendships made during the
four and half years I spent with ARRL before joining Yaesu. It didn't
take me long to see that the staff is very busy supporting its
membership and Amateur Radio as a whole!"

* New Section Manager Appointed in Wyoming: Garth Crowe Sr, N7XKT, of
Gillette, will assume the position of Section Manager in Wyoming as he
takes over the reins from LeeAnne Sachau, WY7DTW, of Devils Tower;
Sachau, who has served as Wyoming Section Manager since August 2008, has
decided to step down. She was appointed last summer after Chris
Pritchard, WY7UPR, moved out of the Section to start a new job. Crowe
has served as Assistant Section Manager; he is currently holds positions
as Emergency Coordinator and Official Observer. According to the Rules
and Regulations of the ARRL Field Organization, Dave Patton, NN1N,
Manager of the ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department, made
the appointment after consulting with Rocky Mountain Division Director
Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, and receiving a recommendation from Sachau.
Crowe's term of office will continue through March 31, 2011. The
nomination announcement for the next term of office for Wyoming Section
Manager is scheduled to appear in the October 2010 issue of QST.

* Everett "Curly" Silva, K7HRW (SK): Former ARRL Nevada Section Manager
Everett "Curly" Silva, K7HRW, passed away December 29, 2008 of cancer.
He was 81. A retired captain with the Nevada Highway Patrol, Silva
served as Section Manager from January 1994-June 1995. He was affiliated
with Air Force MARS and was a Net Control Station. According to current
Nevada Section Manager Joe Giraudo, N7JEH, a memorial service for Silva
will be held at a later date.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the

American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this

listserver.)

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20. Digital voice

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-16 21:51:59 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <ti7cl.15490$g23.11680@newsfe01.iad>
Source record: 2230

Hello gang,

I am curious as to what radios provide digital voice. I have a feeling that there is one, but am unsure.

As we proceed into the 21st century, I would suspect that we are going to have to - eventually - embrace digital modes. I am still in awe over the radios that I troubleshoot and repair - I heard the result of one digital voice transmission that was 8 dB *below* the noise. The resulting voice was not only 100% intelligible, it was *flawless*! This was on HF.

Has anyone experimented with digital voice modes?

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

21. Re: Batteries !!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-17 02:56:44 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <UE9cl.70986$JA5.13078@newsfe08.iad>
Source record: 2231

"Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in message
news:gjbo3l$2nu$1@news.motzarella.org...
> Man I think I ought to buy stock in a battery company. Everything takes
> batteries and everyone is different (at least it seems that way).
>
> Dee, N8UZE

Hello Dee,

Not entirely true. I am amazed by the products that use one particular size of those quarter-sized batteries. My bathroom scales and the One-Touch Ultra diabetes test machine use the same batteries. A friend came over to the house with a non-working computer. Very quickly I determined that the problem was the battery back-up for the BIOS. Upon examination, I removed the battery and replaced it with a battery from one of the bathroom scales. Rebooted, set to default and set the time and date and the computer worked just fine.

She asked what I did to repair the computer. I replied "I fixed it with the bathroom scale". LOL. True story.

That said, I am buying rechargeable AA batteries and plan to add AAA batteries that are rechargeable. I have the charger for those devices and, hopefully, plan to save money in the long run.

They might cost a few bucks, but they are cheaper than car batteries LOL.

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

22. Re: Batteries !!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-17 15:59:03 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gksv7vska1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2232

"Jim Hampton" <aa2qa@frontiernet.net> wrote in message
news:UE9cl.70986$JA5.13078@newsfe08.iad...
>
> "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net> wrote in message
> news:gjbo3l$2nu$1@news.motzarella.org...
>> Man I think I ought to buy stock in a battery company. Everything takes
>> batteries and everyone is different (at least it seems that way).
>>
>> Dee, N8UZE
>
> Hello Dee,
>
> Not entirely true. I am amazed by the products that use one particular
> size of those quarter-sized batteries. My bathroom scales and the
> One-Touch Ultra diabetes test machine use the same batteries. A friend
> came over to the house with a non-working computer. Very quickly I
> determined that the problem was the battery back-up for the BIOS. Upon
> examination, I removed the battery and replaced it with a battery from one
> of the bathroom scales. Rebooted, set to default and set the time and date
> and the computer worked just fine.
>
> She asked what I did to repair the computer. I replied "I fixed it with
> the bathroom scale". LOL. True story.
>
> That said, I am buying rechargeable AA batteries and plan to add AAA
> batteries that are rechargeable. I have the charger for those devices
> and, hopefully, plan to save money in the long run.
>
> They might cost a few bucks, but they are cheaper than car batteries LOL.
>
>
> 73 from Rochester, NY
> Jim AA2QA
>

"everyone is different" is hyperbole. However, right now I have the
following batteries on hand to handle the different gadgets in my home:

AAA
AA
C
D
D size rechargeables
9 volt
2032

386
377

Eight different types of batteries for now.

Dee, N8UZE

23. Re: Digital voice

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-17 16:30:36 UTC
From: an old freind <konstans@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <f707c219-cce9-45f8-bcab-8099542b9376@m4g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2233

On Jan 16, 4:51 pm, "Jim Hampton" <aa...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
> Hello gang,
>
> I am curious as to what radios provide digital voice. I have a feeling
that
> there is one, but am unsure.
>
> As we proceed into the 21st century, I would suspect that we are going to
> have to - eventually - embrace digital modes. I am still in awe over t
he
> radios that I troubleshoot and repair - I heard the result of one digital
> voice transmission that was 8 dB *below* the noise. The resulting voic
e was
> not only 100% intelligible, it was *flawless*! This was on HF.
>
> Has anyone experimented with digital voice modes?
>
> 73 from Rochester, NY
> Jim AA2QA

Icom Dstar is on a number of ICOM rdio

if memeroy serves their is also flex radio that has some usch
provision

AOR make a "modem" that can be attached to radio I ahve those in use
and played with a few dstar units at ham fest

being that I live wehre I live I have not aquired anything since my
would be the only one arround

24. Re: Triple Play Award

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-17 16:31:01 UTC
From: kzerohb@gmail.com
Message-ID: <81468179-3484-45ea-a4c8-4637c96d0a88@35g2000pry.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2234

On Dec 11 2008, 7:56 pm, Kï¿½HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:

>
> Who will win award number 0001? How long will it take?
>

Took only 15 days!

Certificate #1 has been awarded.

Congratulations to W2YC!

73, de Hans, K0HB

25. Re: Triple Play Award

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-17 20:24:40 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <CfydnUaTs7Tjo-_UnZ2dnUVZ_tudnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2235

kzerohb@gmail.com wrote:
> On Dec 11 2008, 7:56 pm, Kï¿½HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>> Who will win award number 0001? How long will it take?
>>

> Took only 15 days!
>
> Certificate #1 has been awarded.
>
> Congratulations to W2YC!

All the contacts were made in 15 days, but my bet is that he started planning for it in July when the award was announced. This is certainly quite an achievement. Congratulations, indeed.

> 73, de Hans, K0HB

And congratulations to Hans, also. From http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/: "Based on a suggestion by former ARRL Dakota Division Vice Director Hans Brakob, K0HB, the League's Programs and Services Committee referred the award's parameters to the Board where it received enthusiastic approval."

26. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-22 07:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1232607601@panix.com>
Source record: 2236
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

27. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-22 07:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1232607900@panix.com>
Source record: 2237
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

28. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1641 - January 23 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-23 12:59:57 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090123013035.01805b10@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2238
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1641 - January 23 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. With word on Amateur Radio Newsline's finances, here's our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema N6TCQ:

--

The great thing about Amateur Radio is that your level of involvement can be anything you choose- you can be an avid DX'er or just a casual repeater user. Run your fingers to the bone on packet or RTTY, be heavily involved with emergency work, or not even get on the air for a while. The hobby will still be there.

That's why we, the volunteer staff at Amateur Radio Newsline, love what we do- it's ever changing, ever evolving. Unfortunately, the realities of bringing you these weekly newscasts don't change that much.

We've done our best to try to shave down the fixed expenses- what it costs for internet service, how we can best use a combination of land- and wireless-based phone services, to hold these to a minimum. We've even done away with tape in our newsgathering and editing- everything's software and solid-state.

My backup solution to try would be to instruct our Producer, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, to only report on the news that automatically comes into our news bureau, as other news services do. But that defeats why it is that so many of you tell us that you love our service- that we bring you the voices of the newsmakers, and those special stories that just don't get reported. That's what makes us unique in Amateur Radio reporting.

Please help us keep these newscasts on the air, doing what we do best. You can contribute via PayPal on our website, arnewsline.org, or at our Arcadia California address given at the end of the newscast. We thank you for your support.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and now on to the news.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1641 with a release date of Friday, January 23rd, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Turkey prepares to launch its first ham-sat, a threat to 24 Gigahertz ham radio operations across Europe, ZS8T calls in from isolated Marion Island to say he's on the air as often as time permits, and there won't be any cellphone jamming behind Washington D.C prison bars. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number

1641 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: TURKEY TO LAUNCH MICROSAT

Turkey is joining the microsat revolution. This, with word that the nations first tiny bird named ITUpSAT1 will go into orbit shortly. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, has the details:

--

ITUpSAT1 is described as a micro sized university sponsored satellite designed and manufactured as a part of the ongoing CubeSat project. Its being constructed as a joint project between Turkish universities in collaboration of Stanford Research Institute and California Polytechnic University in the United States.

Mission payloads include a low resolution camera along with a series of scientific sensors including an accelerometer and magnetometer that will radio data back to Earth. The primary objective of this project is to train an experienced staff on satellite systems in Turkey.

At airtime no frequencies or modes of operation for ITUpSAT1have been announced.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles

--

More information on the project is at http://usl.itu.edu.tr/index.html (Southgate, ITUpSAT1)

**

RADIO RULES: A NEW THREAT TO 24 GHZ IN EUROPE

A potentially a new threat to amateur and amateur satellite operations in the 24 Gigahertz band in Europe. The European Commission has put out a call for public input and comment to prepare for a fundamental review of a decision made in 2005. This, for harmonization of the 24 Gigahertz radio spectrum for the time-limited use by automotive short-range radar equipment. In other words, unlicensed devices such as Short Range Radar and the like. Hams in Europe see this as an opportunity for commercial interests to extend, possibly indefinitely, what they see as the inappropriate use of 24 Gigahertz for these applications and are organizing their opposition to this use of the band. (EU Radio Spectrum Policy, Southgate)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: ZS8T SAYS OPERATIONS WILL BE LIMITED

ZS8T is on the air from Marion Island, but only as times allows. In an interview with the SARL's Amateur Radio Mirror International, station operator, Petrus Kritzinger, said that his work schedule has not permitted him much time to operate.

--

ZS8T: "A lot of the radio things will be dependent on my working schedule and (so far) this year it has been quite hectic."

--

Were sorry about the poor audio quality but the satellite telephone connection to Marion Island was not the greatest. None the less, Kritzinger was able to tell Amateur Radio Mirror International that he also experienced antenna problems due to high winds and generally poor weather conditions.

--

ZS8T: "In December I put up the Spider-Beam. I actually put it up three times and within two days the wind folds it like a an upside-down umbrella."

--

He has managed to erect the Stepp-IR vertical antenna and has made some test contacts with stations in South Africa and Russia.

Kritzinger hopes to be active as work schedules allow. He will be mainly on 20 meters. The complete interview with ZS8T can be found at the URL in this week's printed Newsline report. And we will have more DX-related stories later on in this week's newscast.

(Amateur Radio Mirror International)

**

RESCUE RADIO: EMCOMM EVENT CANCELED DUE TO WORLD ECONOMY

A joint ham radio emergency communications expo, co-sponsored by American and Canadian groups, has been canceled due to lack of money. This, with word that Canada has pulled most of its funding out of a joint Radio Amateurs of Canada and ARRL sponsored event slated for Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in mid-March.

Preparations for the event were halted when Canadian government monetary support was suddenly reduced in early January. The withdrawal of funds was blamed on the current world economic climate. This would have been only the second cross-border event of its type ever held. (VE3BDB)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KB9VSE repeater system serving the great dairyland state of Wisconsin.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC TO FINE CABLECASTERS FOR FAILURE TO PROVIDE DIGITAL TIER TRANSFERS

The Federal Communications Commission has issued Notices of Apparent Liability for Monetary Forfeiture to nine cable TV operators. This, for what the FCC says was their effort to thwart its investigation of a practice in which analog channels were transferred to a more costly digital tier and thereby leaving some customers without access.

The proposed fines range from $7,500 to $25,000. Also, some companies were told to issue refunds within 90 days for failing to give a 30-day notice about changes that were not related to the national switch to digital format broadcasting.

In a letter to Congressional leaders on January 19th, outgoing FCC Chairman Kevin Martin said operators had shown contempt for the commission. This, by not providing full information about their practices as ordered last October.

All of the cited cable television suppliers are expected to appeal the FCC's forfeiture orders through the FCC Administrative Procedures process and possibly into the Federal courts. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT : EUROPEAN UNION MAY BAN PLASMA TV'S DUE TO QRM

If you are suffering interference from a neighbor's plasma television receiver and live in Europe, then a solution may soon be at hand. The United Kingdom press reports that plasma screen TV's could be banned under new European Union rules now making their way through the legislative system.

The Daily Telegraph recently carried a story that plasma screen TVs have had a bad reputation among users of the Short Wave radio spectrum. This, because of the high level of RF interference they can generate and many radio users will be pleased to see them go. And as a result of mounting complaints, the European Union is now considering the anti-plasma screen regulations. (WIA News)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: INAUGURAL ISSUE OF WORLDRADIO ONLINE IS ON LINE

The inaugural issue of WorldRadio Online was posted on the World Wide Web on Inauguration Day, Tuesday, October 20th. The February issue features articles on a ham station aboard a still-sailing Victory Ship, as well as a very handy primer on basic knots. Also, most familiar columnists are there as well, including "Krusty" Aerials columnist Kurt N. Sterba.

The issue is in a downloadable PDF file. It may be accessed without charge by going to the CQ magazine home page at www.cq-amateur-radio.com and

clicking on the "WorldRadio Online" link. WorldRadio Online is published monthly by CQ Communications, Inc. which purchased the magazine late last year. (CQ)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: NEW SUPPLIER OF HEATHKIT MANUALS AND EVEN SOME PARTS

A new source for high quality reprints of Heathkit manuals along with some upgrades and service parts has come to the World-Wide-Web. This, with word that Data Professionals of Pleasanton, California, has purchased the copyrights and existing inventory of all legacy Heathkit product documentation from Heath Company of Benton Harbor Michigan. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

--

If you are old enough to remember when Heathkits reigned supreme among electronic builders then you will be happy to know that there is a new source of manuals and even some parts to keep them alive and well today. And we are not just talking ham radio gear either.

Data Professionals is a new company headed up by Don Peterson. He tells Newsline that last year Heathkit contacted him and indicated that it wanted to stop supporting the manual requests that they were still receiving. Its preference was for him to take it over since he had already shown an interest in supporting Heathkit products.

After agreeing on a price Peterson says that he paid the cost to have 2.5 tons of documents shipped from Michigan to his office in California. He says that the new company will make high quality copies of the original legacy manuals available to the marketplace via its web site and through eBay and PayPal.

As to Internet rumors that he forced websites that have supplied manuals to stop doing that, Peterson says that in part, that is the case. He says that during the time he was negotiating the purchase, Heathkit had again taken an interest in trying to suppress various unauthorized manual suppliers. Once he made the purchase he realized that if he was now the copyright holder, that it fell to him to protect the copyrights of the manuals. So he contacted the various manual suppliers and requested that they stop.

Peterson says that he also realized that Boat Anchor Manual Archive, known better as BAMA was one of the most used sources of free manuals on the web. He says that it was his intent to continue to support BAMA, but with some compromises. His offer was for BAMA to be able to offer electronic copies of the schematics while just removing the other pages of the manuals from their website. He even offered to provide good quality .PDF files for the schematics but he believes that was simply too much of a bother for the BAMA webmaster who has removed the Heath manuals completely.

So what will Peterson be doing with the manuals? Obviously selling copies, but at prices below that of others on the web. As Don Peterson says, what he will charge will cover the cost of duplication plus a little margin to keep the doors open. He also says that he and W7FG have agreed to a royalty deal so he can continue to sell the Heathkit manuals as well. He does, however, say that he will continue to try and shut down any site that is providing free copies of entire manuals or is selling electronic copies on eBay on CD ROM's.

As to any profits from the sale of manuals? Peterson says that will be used to continue development of new upgrades and after-market modules so as to continue to support the entire Heathkit product line. His company has already designed some replacement temperature sensor modules for the weather stations and a replacement board for the old Mostek CPU for the ID-4001 Weather Station. He is currently in development of a replacement CPU board in the GC-1000 'Most Accurate Clock' that is still very popular and in service a lot of places these days. He tells Newsline that this module will be a 'plug-in' replacement board that will plug into the socket of the Mostek CPU. Peterson says that without the cash flow from the manuals, this would not be possible.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

Complete information on obtaining manuals for Heath gear along with the updated modules and other parts is on line at Don Peterson's website. It's in cyberspace at www.d8apro.com. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HELP WANTED: THE FCC MAY HAVE A JOB FOR YOU

Meantime, if you are looking for a job, how about working for the FCC? If you do then we have word that the regulatory agency is looking for a Chief for its Spectrum Coordination Branch, as well as a few other good engineers. All positions are based in Washington. Job descriptions and how to apply are at https://jobs1.quickhire.com/scripts/fcc.exe/runuserinfo?Haveusedbefore=5 (CGC, RW)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ROCHESTER HAMFEST TURF WAR

A turf war has developed over who will be sponsoring this year's Rochester Hamfest in upstate New York and the venue where it will be held. This, after the Rochester Amateur Radio Club breaks ranks with the longtime host.

According to Lee Badman, KI2K, who is a columnist for the Syracuse Post Standard, the Web site www. Rochesthamfest.org claims that the fest will be at the traditional site, and that any rumors to the contrary should be disregarded. Telephone and e-mail contact information is provided for more information, and a read-over of the site makes you inclined to believe

you've found all you need to know about the event.

But that's just a part of the story. Here's the other: The Rochester Amateur Radio Association also claims that it will host the official event. Also, that it will move it to a new venue at the Barnard Carnival Grounds. RARA's information is at www.rochesterham.org. (Syracuse Post Standard, eHam.net)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: CHAIRMAN KEVIN MARTIN RESIGNS

Some names in the news. First is now former Federal Communications Commission Chairman, Kevin Martin, who resigned from the agency effective this past Tuesday, January 20th. Martin will joined the Aspen Institute in Washington as a senior fellow for the institute's Communications and Society Program.

Martin, the FCC chairman since 2005, was a repeated critic of high cable rates and advocated more stringent decency standards on cable and broadcast television. He also supported a wireless technology that would make the Internet more widely available to Americans.

As reported last week, President Barack Obama has nominated Julius Genachowski, a former FCC official during the Clinton administration, as the new head of the regulatory agency. (Published reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: COY DAY, N5OK, RESIGNS FROM THE ARRL BOD

And after more than 12 years as a member of the ARRL Board of Directors with 10 of them as West Gulf Division Director, Coy Day, N5OK, announced that he is resigning from ARRL elected office, effective January 20th..

Day was Chairman of the League's Ethics and Elections Committee when he tendered his resignation. Per the ARRL Articles of Association, Vice Director David Woolweaver, K5RAV, will take over as Director. In the near future ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will appoint a new Vice Director.

The next election for West Gulf Division Director and Vice Director will be in 2010. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W9XA NAMED NEW CHAIR OF ARRL VHF - UHF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meantime, the ARRL has announced that Kermit Carlson, W9XA has been named the new Chairman of the League's VHF/UHF Advisory Committee. In addition to his being the Central Division's representative on the committee, he is also a long time member of the Illinois Fox River Radio League and has held many of the leadership positions in that organization.

Carlson replaces Lauren Libby, W0LD, of Colorado Springs, Colorado as the committee chair. The League's Central Division Director, Dick Isely, W9GIG, made the announcement during a break in the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in Newington, CT.

The VHF/UHF Advisory Committee is not a traditional advisory committee. It is mandated to consider only contest issues, and its term is limited to five years duration. (N9CHA)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO COMPETITION: US HAMS WANTED FOR QRQ CW CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

Contestants from the United States are being sought to take part in the 8th annual IARU World High Speed Telegraphy Championship. The event is slated for September 11th to the 15th in Obzor, Bulgaria. And Barry Kutner, W2UP, says via eHam dot net that he is putting together a US team to compete.

According to Kutner, the classes of competitors are broken down by age and gender. Currently, he is looking for both males and females under the age of 40 to fill up several empty slots.

The rules for the competition can be found at www.hst2009.eu. If you are interested in joining his team, please contact Barry Kutner, W2UP, at 207 Winding Lane, Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940 or by e-mail to W2UP at ARRL dot net. (eHam.net)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW EFFICIENT LEDS

Researchers at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute have developed and demonstrated a new type of light emitting diode (LED) with significantly improved lighting performance and energy efficiency. The new polarization-matched LEDs, developed in collaboration with Samsung Electro-Mechanics, exhibits an 18 percent increase in light output and a 22 percent increase in wall-plug efficiency. This is essentially measures the amount of electricity the LED converts into light. (ScienceDaily)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW FUEL CELL FOR PORTABLE DEVICES IN DEVELOPMENT

Scientists in the UK are attempting to master new technology to power cars, portable computers, mobile phones and numerous other battery-dependent

devices. One that could also be of benefit to numerous mobile and portable ham radio field operations.

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been given almost ï¿½300,000 to create a cheaper and lower temperature fuel cell. To make this happen, the university's chemistry department is trying to develop what it calls carbon-tolerant fuel cell devices. Like their larger brethren, these cells convert fuel to electric power without the need for combustion. Unlike older fuel cells, these will be better able to cope with the carbon monoxide found in the fuel that it is converting into power.

The project leader is Dr Angela Kruth. She hopes that this new type fuel cell can be introduced to the market in the near future. (Science Today)

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WORLDBEAT: BERMUDA AT AGE 400

With 2009 being the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Bermuda by Sir George Somers, the Radio Society of Bermuda has been issued a special call sign by the telecommunications authority that can be used all year. It is VP9400, plus a two-letter suffix of the operator's call sign. Special pictorial cards will be used to QSL all contacts made using the VP9400 prefix.
(VP9LP, Secretary, Radio Society of Bermuda).

**

WORLDBEAT: T-HUNT FOR A LOST FALCON IN THE UK

T-Hunters in the UK have been asked to help find a lost falcon. The owner of the bird says that he was flying her in the area of Swansea, on Tuesday, January 13th, when she flew out of sight while chasing a crow.

While the falcon was wearing a radio tag transmitter operating on 216.005 Mhz, unfortunately the bird's owner's receiver chose that precise moment to die. As the falcon could by now be anywhere in the United Kingdom, the falconer is asking U-K hams with the ability to listen on 216.005 MHz. Listen out for her either single or double-beep signal every 4 seconds. If you hear it, please contact MW0MXT at his Callbook address.

More on this story is at
www.junksale.co.uk/showthread.php?s
5b1749e0b88a21467ccb44a59bc5f6&threa
didX515
(Southgate)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: VI2BV90 CELEBRATES WAVERLEY ARC

A special call for a very special radio club. This, as the Australian Communications and Media Authority assigns the special callsign VI2BV90 to the Waverley Amateur Radio Society which at 90 years is the oldest amateur

radio club in that nation down-under.

The Waverley Amateur Radio Society was founded on January 27th, 1919. Its first callsign N249 that was assigned to it on August 18, 1920. This was later changed to 2BV; and then, VK2BV. So, in reality, the combination of the two earlier calls as VI2BV90 will be the one used until February 1st, to celebrate the 90th birthday of this club. More details about the station can be found on the web at www.vk2bv.org (WIA)

**

DX

In DX, keep an ear open for DL2GAC, active as H44MS from Honiara, in the Solomon Islands. He will be there until April 28th. His primary focus will be on 80 and 40 meters. QSL as directed on the air.

OM2DX is in Hanoi, Vietnam and assigned the calls XV9DX and 3W1M. He will be there through 2012 and active on all bands. QSL via OM3JW.

DL2EBR says that he will be in Thailand a bit longer than originally anticipated. He is licensed as HS0ZEU and enjoys digital modes like PSK and SSTV. QSL's go via the RAST QSL bureau.

P40PZ will be on the air from Aruba until the 28th of January. He's operating 80 through to 6 meters using SSB and the digital modes only. QSL via EA5GVH.

F8EN will be operational from Gabon until January 26th. He is reportedly using the callsign TR8CR. QSL via F6AJA.

CT1BWW will use the call CS6BWW from Portugal in all major contests in January, February and March. QSLs direct or via the bureau .

Lastly, F4EGS operating portable TU, is reportedly on from the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan. He reportedly plans to concentrate on 40 through to 10 meters. Again QSL this operation as directed on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: NO CELL JAMMING DEMO AT DC PRISON

And finally this week, a rather strange story out of the nation's capitol. This, with word that a company that wanted to show how its cellular telephone jammers could be an effective crime fighting tool had its demonstration canceled by a Washington DC area prison.

The company is called CellAntenna Corporation. It announced last week that the FCC-authorized presentation has been called off at the last moment by the District of Columbia Department of Corrections. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the rest of the details:

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CellAntenna Corporation was supposed to demonstrate its cellular telephone jamming technology on Thursday, January 8. While setting up its equipment, a representative from District of Columbia Prisons notified the company that the presentation was being canceled.

The Federal Communications Commission had earlier provided the District of Columbia Prisons written authorization for the test, allowing CellAntenna to perform the demonstration of jamming of cell phones. But at the last minute the Cellular Telephone Industry Association filed a lengthy 85-page challenge to the test. that was supposed to be heard in Federal Court at 4 PM on January 7th. Most believe that the CTIA court filing may have swayed the prison authority into its decision to call off the demonstration.

CellAntenna says that it was disappointed that the prison authority had, in the company's view, obviously buckled under the pressure of the Cellular Telephone Industry Association demand that the test be canceled. It also claims that cellular service providers are still selling services to inmates despite the fact that it is illegal for them to use a cellular telephone behind prison bars.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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The FCC had prepared a brief in favor of the testing but the whole matter became moot when the District of Columbia Prisons canceled the test. (E-Tech)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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29. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 3 (Friday, January 23, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-23 23:14:26 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090123230713.8B7A031234@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2239
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 3
January 23, 2009
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* + Coy Day, N5OK, Resigns from ARRL Board of Directors
* + Hams Help Out with Historic Day
* + LoTW Reaches New Milestone: 200 Million QSOs
* + ARRL to Unveil New Course for Public Information Officers
* + FCC Reports Decline in BPL Customers
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Officers for ARRL Foundation Elected
+ Amateur Radio Groups Help with Digital TV Transition

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSIDERS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL GOALS FOR
2009

The ARRL Board of Directors held its 2009 Annual Meeting on January
16-17 in Windsor, Connecticut, under the chairmanship of President Joel
Harrison, W5ZN. Radio Amateurs of Canada President David Goodwin,
VO1AU/VE3AAQ, and IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, were guests of the
Board.

The Board considered and acted on a number of organizational and
regulatory issues. Election of the Executive Committee, committee
appointments and awards were also on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

Organizational Issues
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ARRL Strategic Plan: At its July 2008 meeting, the Board voted to develop a timeline to review and revise the ARRL Strategic Plan. The Board directed Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, to release the Plan's long-range goals to the membership and to solicit comments from members "on the future direction and priorities of their national organization." At this meeting, Sumner led an in depth led an in depth discussion of the membership input. The Executive Committee is tasked with developing materials for use in completing the Plan revision at the July 2009 Board meeting.

ARRL Membership and Deployed Active Duty Military: The Board voted unanimously to amend Bylaw 5 <http://www.arrl.org/aabl.html>, stating that the Executive Vice President is authorized to maintain ARRL membership privileges without charge for the duration of a member's active military deployment outside the ARRL operating territory as described in Bylaw 30, with or without the delivery of QST at the member's option. Bylaw 30 delineates which states (or portions of states) belong to the 15 ARRL Divisions. This action brings in to the Bylaws a policy adopted earlier by the Board.

Budget: The Board voted to adopt the 2009-2010 Plan (as amended), as presented by the Administration and Finance Committee.

Scouting: The Board voted to offer assistance to the Boy Scouts of America and their 2010 National Scout Jamboree. By representing Amateur Radio and participating with K2BSA at the Jamboree in conjunction with the Boy Scouts, the ARRL plans to build on the success of past National Jamborees where thousands of youth learned about the value and enjoyment of Amateur Radio. Teaching the Radio merit badge program, license classes and VE exam sessions have been parts of the quadrennial event that attracts more than 40,000 Scouts and leaders.

Technology Task Force: This group, created in 1999, was formed to develop a strategy and plan of work for exploring new technologies, assessing their applicability to Amateur Radio and also developing a plan as to how to incorporate such new technology in the Amateur Radio Service. Since its inception, the Technology Task Force has carried out studies and offered recommendations -- particularly with regard to digital voice, high-speed multimedia, and software-defined radio. The Board resolved that the exploration and promotion of new Amateur Radio communications technologies shall continue to be an essential element of the ARRL's mission and that the original mission of the Technology Task Force may now be carried out more effectively by other means. With sincere thanks and gratitude, the Board voted to dissolve the group.

IARU Member-Society Admissions: The Board voted unanimously to instruct the Secretary to cast ballots in favor of admitting the Emirates Amateur Radio Society and the Kazakhstan Federation of Radiosports and Radioamateur to the IARU

ARRLWeb Redesign: A group from Fathom, a contractor based in Hartford, presented the company's progress on a new design for the ARRL Web site. As recommended by the Administration and Finance Committee, the Board

voted to approve a capital expenditure to move into the third phase of the design development.

Legislative Regulatory Matters

Legislative Objectives: The Board voted to approve five legislative objectives for the 111th Congress:
* Objective #1: The ARRL seeks legislation to extend the requirement for "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Radio station antennas (a requirement that now applies to state and local regulations) to all forms of land use regulation.
* Objective #2: The ARRL opposes legislation that encourages the deployment of RF technologies such as broadband over power line (BPL) systems unless adequate safeguards against interference to licensed radiocommunication services are included in the legislation.
* Objective #3: The ARRL opposes legislation that would diminish the rights of federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters, especially unintentional emitters.
* Objective #4: The ARRL seeks recognition of the unique resources, capabilities and expertise of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation addressing communications issues related to emergencies, disasters, or homeland security.
* Objective #5: The ARRL supports the complementary legislative objectives of other radiocommunication services, particularly the public safety and scientific services that require spectrum access and protection from interference for noncommercial purposes that benefit the public.

Call Sign Allocation Study: The Board voted to instruct the Executive Committee, with advice and input from the Programs and Services Committee, to study the FCC sequential, vanity and special call sign programs.

Amateur Radio and Driving: The Board noted that local municipalities, as well as state legislatures, have made laws or are considering laws that apply to drivers who use cellular telephones while driving. Recognizing that this sort of legislation often inadvertently prohibits -- or can be construed to prohibit -- Amateur Radio mobile communications, the Board instructed the Executive Committee to develop a policy statement and recommend language that protects the ability of licensed radio amateurs to prudently conduct mobile amateur communications.

Other Items

Committee Elections and Appointments

Executive Committee: The Board elected the following Directors to the ARRL Executive Committee: Bill Edgar, N3LLR, Atlantic Division; Dick Isely, W9GIG, Central Division; Jay Bellows, K0QB, Dakota Division; Tom Frenaye, K1KI, New England Division, and Bob Vallio, W6RGG, Pacific Division. Members of this committee serve one year terms.

President Harrison appointed the following Board members to committees:

Administration and Finance Committee: Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, Chairman, Northwestern; Jim Weaver, K8JE, Great Lakes; Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, Roanoke; Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain; Dick Norton, N6AA, Southwestern; Vice Director Cliff Ahrens, K0CA, Midwest, and Treasurer Jim McCobb, K1LU.

Programs and Services Committee: Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, Chairman, Midwest; Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, Southeastern; Coy Day, N5OK, West Gulf; Mickey Cox, K5MC, Delta; Frank Fallon, N2FF, and Vice Director Greg Widin, K0GW, Dakota.

Ethics and Elections Committee: Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, Chairman, Southwestern; Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain, and Jay Bellows, K0QB, Dakota Division.

Ad Hoc Scouting: Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, Chairman, Rocky Mountain; Bill Edgar, N3LLR, Atlantic Division; Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, Northwestern, and Staff Liaison Larry Wolfgang, WR1B.

Ad Hoc Committee on the ARRL Foundation: Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, Chairman; Tom Frenaye, K1KI, New England; Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, Northwestern, Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH.

Chairman and Liaison Appointments

Public Relations Committee: Bill Morine, N2COP, Chairman; Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, Liaison, New England.

Historical Committee: Vice Director Gary Johnston, KI4LA, Chairman, Great Lakes.

Legal Defense and Action Committee: Jay Bellows, K0QB, Chairman, Dakota Division.

Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee: Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, Chairman, Roanoke.

Band Planning Committee: Vice President Rick Roderick, K5UR, Chairman.

Microwave Band Planning Committee: Tom Clark, K3IO, Chairman

RF Safety Committee: Greg Lapin, N9GL, Chairman.

VHF/UHF Advisory Committee: Kermit Carlson, W9XA, Chairman.

DX Advisory Committee: To be announced

Contest Advisory Committee: Dick Green, WC1M, Chairman.

Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator: Joe Moell, K0OV.

Awards

2008 International Humanitarian Award: The Board selected the Amateur Radio operators of the Sichuan Radio Sports Association, the Chinese Radio Sports Association and the many operators from around China who

supported communications efforts in the aftermath of the May 2008 earthquake, as the recipient of the 2008 International Humanitarian Award.

2008 Bill Leonard, W2SKE Professional Media Award: The Board selected Ted Randall, WB8PUM, of Lebanon, Tennessee, as the recipient of the 2008 Bill Leonard, W2SKE Professional Media Award; Randall is host of the QSO Radio Show. He was cited for his ongoing coverage of Amateur Radio through his profiling of key figures and personalities. Randall's reporting of their contributions "best reflects the enjoyment, importance and public service value of Amateur Radio."

The complete Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will soon be available on the ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/announce/board.html>.

The next meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for July 17-18, 2009.

==> COY DAY, N5OK, RESIGNS FROM ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

After more than 12 years as a member of the ARRL Board family -- 10 of them as West Gulf Division Director -- Coy Day, N5OK, announced that he is resigning from ARRL elected office, effective January 20. Per the ARRL Articles of Association <http://www.arrl.org/aabl.html>, Vice Director Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, has taken over as Director, and ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will appoint a new Vice Director. The next election for West Gulf Division Director and Vice Director will be in 2010.

Day, who was Chairman of the League's Ethics and Elections Committee, and served on the Executive Committee for the past year, said, "I have really enjoyed interfacing with and serving the membership in my term as West Gulf Division Director. Traveling around, going to club meetings, going to hamfests -- I've just enjoyed being with other amateurs the most. I've also enjoyed representing the membership at the Board of Directors meetings, talking, finding out what they need and what they are feeling and bringing that back to the Board." Before being elected to the Board of Directors, Day served as West Gulf Vice Director and Oklahoma Section Manager.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Coy Day on the ARRL Board," said ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. "Coy's integrity is admirable and something that everyone should model. We will miss his wisdom and smooth manner on the Board, and wish the best for Coy and his wife Judy."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, concurred: "In addition to the gentlemanly demeanor that most people who know him associate with Coy, what I will always remember about his service on the Board are the high standards that he set -- for himself, as well as for the ARRL staff. This was especially evident while he was Chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee. Coy challenged and supported the staff in equal and abundant measure."

"I could not step down if I was not confident that David would do a great job as Director," Day said. "He's been such a great Vice Director. He's already served on committees and done so many things within the West Gulf Division. David's doing a great job and I know he will continue to do great things as Director of the West Gulf Division." Dr Woolweaver will take Day's place on the Programs and Services Committee for 2009.

Woolweaver called Day a "tireless contributor to Amateur Radio for two decades," and said Day's long service "has been marked by honor and integrity. It has been my privilege to serve with Coy for the past seven years as his Vice Director. I know that everyone in the West Gulf Division will join me in wishing Coy well in his retirement."

While serving on the Board of Directors, Day served on numerous committees. "I think I served on all of them," he joked. "I was Chairman of the Membership Services Committee -- that was before the name was changed to the Programs and Services Committee. I was also Chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee. My first committee was the ad hoc Committee for Long Range Planning, back in 2001."

"I would like thank the members and the staff -- the support here at HQ," Day said. "I also want to thank my fellow Board members -- it takes all 15 of us working together to make things happen. It's been fun."

==> HAMS HELP OUT WITH HISTORIC DAY

On Tuesday, January 20, Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States. Numerous organizations -- federal, state and local agencies, the staff of Presidents Bush and Obama, as well as private agencies -- were involved in the months of planning required to make the event go smoothly. From the very beginning, Amateur Radio operators were involved, making sure that communications support was available by providing backup communications in the event that primary communications were disrupted.

According to ARRL Virginia Section Public Information Coordinator Joe Safranek, K4JJS, the Virginia and Maryland Offices of Emergency Management -- as well as various local jurisdictions in and around the Washington, DC metro area -- requested the assistance of Amateur Radio operators to provide local and short distance communications for the inauguration and the events leading up to it.

Safranek said that ARRL Virginia Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC, and ARES-RACES of Virginia Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Sokol, K4KHZ, selected Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator Bruce Freund, K7BC, to be the project officer for this event.

"Freund's area of responsibility covered two Virginia ARES districts that are comprised of 14 cities and counties along the western border of the District of Columbia," Safranek said. "These districts are managed by Howard Cunningham, WD5DBC, and Tom Lauzon, KI4AFE. They had to ensure that their jurisdictional Emergency Coordinators and members accomplished the mission objectives received from event officials.

Numerous Amateur Radio operators involved with the various organizations serving the jurisdictions in Virginia, DC and Maryland all worked together."

Across the Potomac River, ARRL Maryland/DC Section Manager James Cross, WI3N, and Section Emergency Coordinator Steve Beckman, N3SB, were actively involved from the beginning with planning and preparation efforts. If needed, Section leadership was prepared to assist within the District. In DC, members of Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT) <http://www.reactintl.org/> were also part of the planning; the organization had a representative at the very first regional planning meeting.

Planning for communications support during the inauguration drew upon the expertise and relationships developed through the years of planning the annual Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) in DC <http://www.marinemarathon.com>, Safranek said. "The marathon is our major regional Amateur Radio event in the Metropolitan DC area," he said. "When planning our communications support for the marathon, we use the Incident Command Structure (ICS). We decided to use ICS with the inauguration, too. By using a system we were all familiar with, we had a head start."

Safranek listed some of the many ways amateurs helped out with communications support: Nick Meacher, N3WWE, built on a template the group used for the marathon for the compilation of the Incident Communications Plan. Weeks in advance of the inauguration, Fairfax County Emergency Coordinator Jeff Wilson, AI4IO, led a field test of the repeaters planned for use for the primary Regional Coordination Net to ensure that participating Emergency Operations Centers would be able operate cleanly through the selected repeaters. Field tests are a key lesson learned from MCM and identified necessary changes to the Communication Plan. District Emergency Coordinator Howard Cunningham, WB5DBC, serves the marathon as Special Project Officer. He prepared a staffing approach for mutual assistance that, if needed, would rely on the on-call ARES/RACES organizations in Loudoun, Prince William and Fauquier counties to supplement the activated groups in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax.

Safranek said that the area's communications equipment was well suited to the task: "Using a combination of many systems, hams were able to move information quickly and efficiently. The Network Engineers Repeater Association (NERA) UHF linked repeater system <http://www.qsl.net/nera/> supported the primary Regional Coordination Net. Local group operations used other analog VHF and UHF systems for phone, Winlink, packet and other modes of operation, as well as the use of a D-STAR VHF/UHF voice and data system. Some operators monitored the Old Dominion Emergency Net/Alfa on 3947 kHz."

On the Maryland/DC side of the Potomac River, hams were active in other areas, including several stationed at RFK Stadium to assist with the visitors from the more than 1200 buses that were parked there. District

EOCs in Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties also had hams providing communications support.

ASEC Bruce Freund singled out the achievements of the Fairfax ARES-RACES Unit, specifically the actions of Fairfax Assistant Emergency Coordinator Tom Azlin, N4ZPT. "Tom was deeply involved in the local and regional planning activities before the event; he serves a similar key role in the Marine Corps Marathon leadership. But in my opinion, it was his performance in the execution of the plan that is particularly noteworthy. During the field testing for the Regional Coordination Net, several jurisdictions could not reliably hit the planned repeaters, so we made the decision to shift to the NERA linked UHF system. Unfortunately, the Fairfax EOC VHF/UHF antenna only provides marginal coverage into NERA. Due to the difficulties the EOC experienced when the Regional Coordination Net opened at 4 AM, Tom put a separate liaison channel in place to supplement the EOC's NERA link and manned it himself while developing a watch bill to ensure coverage on this unanticipated circuit. That liaison channel was covered solidly throughout the day and was the last ARES-RACES circuit secured at the end of operations on Tuesday evening. Tom made sure that the EOC was staffed beginning at 3 AM, until it was secured a little after 8 PM. While his leadership in the planning activities is noteworthy, Tom's stepping forward to provide leadership ensuring successful execution merits special recognition."

Fairfax Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Operations, Art Pond, KD4FBT, worked very long days during the planning phase. Due to his job on Capitol Hill, he was busy getting the new members' IT infrastructure set up. "He pulled one of the six hour rotations in the EOC during what might have been the highest activity time if there had been transport problems inbound," Freund said. "This shows the dedication of the volunteers in working very long days on their regular job, pulling activation duty for the event, and then going back to their regular jobs the very next day."

In Fairfax, one operator was on duty at the local Emergency Operations Center at the beginning and end of the activation, while two were on duty during the main portion of the event. EOCs in Alexandria, Arlington and Falls Church City also had ARES/RACES operators on duty. The Virginia State EOC was manned with a full Amateur Radio crew utilizing HF, VHF and UHF links via voice, packet and Winlink to the inauguration Nets. Besides providing support at EOCs, amateurs were also on duty at Alexandria Hospital, while others were on standby to support communications at two other hospitals in Prince William County, as well as EOCs in Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince William Counties.

Freund is also a member of Army MARS. He served as Net Control Station on the MARS frequencies during the event. According to Safranek, Army MARS HQ at Ft Huachuca, Arizona, put out a directive stating an Actual Incident Net would be established, directing the type of MARS coverage that would be required and how Region 3 (in the DC area) would have liaisons from other regions available to pass any necessary traffic.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, monitored both ham radio frequencies and the ARRL HQ MARS station, AAN1ARL. At the Virginia Commonwealth level, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management opened their EOC where Terry Hebert, KG4GLS, coordinated Amateur Radio activities. State EOCs in Maryland and Virginia had Army MARS operators on premises participating in their regional nets.

Sokol said he was pleased at the outcome of this historical event: "When I was appointed SEC in April 2008, I told the ASECs that they are the managers over their areas and they will be given the opportunity to do just that -- manage operations in their designated areas. Section Manager Carl Clements, W4CAC, totally agreed with this comment and has been extremely supportive of efforts to delegate authority to the intermediary managers, the ASECs and the District Emergency Coordinators, since they are the local area experts. I am really proud of the way in which ARES-RACES of Virginia participated in this event."

"As Virginia Section Manager, I am responsible for a myriad of items -- the emergency communications aspect of the hobby being one of prime importance," Clements said. "With a senior leader like Ron Sokol, a staff of ASECs like Bruce, our DECs, and our local ECs performing their managerial and supervisory duties in an outstanding manner, there is no wonder why our numbers are constantly growing. The Section has accomplished a lot in less than a year, including a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. We have been instrumental in working with a group of dedicated hams in the western areas of the Commonwealth in building an RF link to the eastern areas of Virginia and now we are participating in the inauguration of the President of the United States of America. I could not be more proud of these fine men and women as I am now."

==> LOTW REACHES NEW MILESTONE: 200 MILLION QSOS

On January 16, Vic Kean Jr, K1LT, of Carroll, Ohio, uploaded four years' worth of logs -- about 25,000 QSOs -- to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>. Somewhere in that batch, the LoTW counter crossed the 2 million mark. To celebrate Kean's submission of the 200 millionth QSO, the ARRL has awarded him lifetime free LoTW credits and free ARRL Awards as he qualifies for them.

"When I uploaded all of my contest logs since moving to my current location," Kean said, "I was really surprised at the number of the contacts that were immediately confirmed -- about 30 percent -- especially DXpeditions. I've been very laggard about responding to QSLs that I get. The last batch I did was by printing some card stock on a laser printer."

Kean, who mainly enjoys operating CW on 160 meters, said that he enjoys what he calls "success at contesting through technological superiority," as opposed to superior operating ability. "In other words," he said, "I work at improving my station with technology, and then test those

improvements in a contest. I attempt to achieve awards by trying to get into one of the 'Top 10 boxes' in the contest results. Somewhere I have a Worked All States certificate from my youthful days. I worked about 160 countries but never got around to submitting any cards for DXCC." Kean said that he still intends to try and get at least one QSL card from every country.

"Even though we knew that Logbook of The World would explode in its popularity, 201 million QSOs in roughly the first five years of its existence show that LoTW's concept and ideas have worked beyond our expectations," said ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "Vic's log contributes not only to the bottom line, but to the overall embrace of the technology and further bolsters our commitment to continue to improve and expand the system."

Kean said that he believes Amateur Radio will certainly continue to change as time goes on, "but I don't expect the hobby to ever completely go away. With cognitive radio coming, there is plenty of opportunity to experiment, even by just writing software. In the long run, I think the rules of spectrum allocation will change, but hopefully the change will benefit people in general, rather than corporations. If so, there will still be a role for communications experimenters. Man versus the ionosphere will still be interesting, no matter what the spectrum rules are."

When asked if he would encourage other hams to try Logbook of The World, Kean was enthusiastic: "If someone asked me about Logbook, I would tell them, 'Don't worry about it. Logbook of The World works, and it seems to be enjoying much greater popularity than you know.' At least, that's what I just found out!"

==> ARRL TO UNVEIL NEW COURSE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS

With the many weather events and other newsworthy items of note in 2008, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said that it was evident around the US "that the expertise, motivational level and activities of individual Public Information Officers (PIOs) are highly variable <http://www.arrl.org/pio/>. Some PIOs are excellent. Some retain the PIO title but are inactive, while others are motivated, but apparently not aware of the basic expectations of their role or the skills involved."

Pitts equated the PIO situation to the situation that ARES faced several years ago: "The corrective action for ARES -- that resulted in major success -- began with the design and implementation of the ARRL EmComm Level 1 classes (first tested in Connecticut and then expanded and deployed nationally). They produced significant positive results in the quality, scope and skill of ARES activities."

A similar course, "PR-101," is now being developed by the ARRL. "This course is geared toward PIOs and others interested in Public Relations," Pitts said. "While voluntary, the course will be 'strongly encouraged'

for all ARRL PIOs and available for others."

Overall goals for the course are:

* To clarify the role of the PIO in the Field Organization.
* To establish a base set of expectations (job description) for a PIO to fulfill, and peer pressure to do the job well.
* To establish, teach and verify that course graduates have the common basic skill set needed to accomplish expectations set forth in the PIO job description.
* To create a pool of trained PIOs who can be confidently called upon to represent Amateur Radio in their region during breaking news events.
* To create a spirit of pride in being a trained and active PIO.
* To increase the productivity of PIOs and resultant positive media coverage.

"There is a critical need to offer public relations training that addresses the 21st century media landscape," said ARRL Public Relations Committee Chairman Bill Morine, N2COP. "Since the last revision of the ARRL PIO Handbook in the mid 1990s, domination of coverage has shifted from newspapers, magazines and broadcast stations to cable, satellite and Internet media outlets. The decentralization of media means there are many more ways and formats from which the public can access information. The PR-101 course will point ARRL PIOs in the direction where they can best take advantage of opportunities in both traditional and emerging media."

Saying that the League is fortunate to have a dedicated corps of more than 450 appointed PIOs in the field, Morine pointed out the results of a survey sent to all PIOs: "The December 2008 survey of this group showed that the majority of PIOs are either self-appointed or were appointed by their local club. This confirms that many PIOs are highly motivated and eagerly want to tell the public about Amateur Radio. At the same time, the survey revealed that most PIOs have little or no formal training or experience in public relations, journalism or the media in general. The overwhelming number of respondents told the survey they would gladly participate in public relations and media training from ARRL."

Morine said he is glad to see that more and more Section Managers are already endorsing PR-101 for their PICs and PIOs. "The goal of the Public Relations Committee is to raise the professionalism of our field PIOs, just as the ARECC courses <http://www.arrl.org/cce/activity-list.php3> have elevated the training of ARES operators," he said.

PR-101 is expected to be first shown to the public in May at the ARRL EXPO at the Dayton Hamvention.

==> FCC REPORTS DECLINE IN BPL CUSTOMERS

On January 16, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission released data, as of December 31, 2007, on the services used for high-speed

Internet access in the United States. According to the data collected by the FCC, as of that date there were 121.2 million high-speed lines (including wireless), a 20 percent increase in just six months.

In sharp contrast to the rapid growth in mobile wireless, cable modem, ADSL and fiber as delivery mechanisms to subscribers, Broadband over Power Line (BPL) utilization apparently declined during the period. According to the FCC figures, the category "Power Line and Other" dropped from 5420 lines in June 2007 to just 5274 six months later. It is not known how many of these are "Power Line" and how many are "Other."

"Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>, yet the FCC has made no effort to comply. With the change at the FCC helm that is about to take place, we hope the foot-dragging will come to an end and the Commission will fulfill its obligations to the Court as well as to its licensees."

The 27-page FCC report may be found at on the FCC's Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-287962A1.pdf>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Sometimes a piece of Sun burned like a coin in my hand" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Monday revealed another shy sunspot. Sunspot 1011 appeared suddenly, and then it was gone. Its configuration and location did not identify it as belonging to either Solar Cycle 23 or 24. On Monday, January 19 the sunspot number was 13. Sunspot numbers for January 15-21 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 13, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 71, 71, 72, 71, 71, 70 and 69 with a mean of 70.7. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 2, 2, 9, 3 and 2 with a mean of 3.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 2, 2, 7, 1 and 2 with a mean of 2.9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Pablo Neruda's "Clenched Soul" <http://www.cs.rice.edu/~ssiyer/minstrels/txt/941.txt>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is January 22 and the CQ 160 Meter Contest (CW) is January 23-25. The REF Contest (CW), BARTG RTTY Sprint, the UBA DX Contest (SSB) and the SPAR Winter Field Day are January 24-25. The SKCC Sprint is January 28. Next week, look for the SARL Youth Day Sprint on January 31. The QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint is February 1. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, February 8, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, February 20, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

* Officers for ARRL Foundation Elected: During its annual meeting on January 22 the ARRL Foundation <http://www.arrlf.org/> elected officers for 2009: Tom Frenaye, K1KI, President; Dick Isely, W9GIG, Vice President; Mary Hobart, K1MMH, Secretary, and Jim McCobb, K1LU, Treasurer. Each of the officers served in 2008 "These officers have demonstrated the leadership and commitment to the goals of the ARRL Foundation and received a vote of confidence from the Board for another term," Frenaye said. "In re-electing the slate of officers for another year, the Foundation recognizes the importance of leadership continuity in the organization's commitment to Amateur Radio."

* Amateur Radio Groups Help with Digital TV Transition: ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said he has been getting e-mails and phone calls from Amateur Radio operators concerning the Digital TV conversion, currently set for February 17. "People are asking what's happening with the DTV conversion and wondering what can we do to help," he said. "While there is considerable confusion on a possible extension of the date, things continue as there will be a conversion and the technical information hams provide to their communities will be

needed -- even if the scheduled date for the conversion changes. The role of Amateur Radio is simply to be helpful to the people in our communities." The FCC's Sue McNeil told Pitts that she sent out a request "for all of the [FCC] HQ and Field folks to contact the ARRL Section Managers went out in late December; I understand that contacts have been or are being made. In addition to Philadelphia and Hawaii, I understand that there have been some fruitful discussions with folks in North Carolina and California (Silicon Valley area). We have received good feedback about contacts made in Montana and Portland, as well." If your group or club is interested in participating, please be sure to let your Section Manager <http://www.arrl.org/sections> know of your plans and actions.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change

your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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30. Winter Field Day

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-25 22:22:29 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gliomm$2p3$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2240

Any one else participate in this SPAR sponsored contest?

Dee, N8UZE

31. Riley the Second

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-26 19:10:19 UTC
From: K0HB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <7951B82009B2492E9609F84A8BE08E0C@Laptop>
Source record: 2241

FCC has appointed Riley Hollingsworth's replacement.

http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/26/10587/?nc=1

32. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1642 - January 30 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-30 09:52:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090130014813.01619e58@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2242
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1642 - January 30 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1642 with a release date of Friday, January 30th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. United States hams gets a new rules enforcer at the FCC, Russia says no more space tourist flights after 2009, South African hams try to help the crew of a yacht lost at sea, a full size 160 meter beam goes up in Finland and what to do with all those dead batteries. Learn the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1642
coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC NAMES LAURA L. SMITH TO ENFORCE THE HAM RADIO RULES

Laura L. Smith has been named as the new Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. She replaces Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who retired last July 3rd. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

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Attorney Laura L. Smith is a 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law. She began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division.

In 1998, Smith departed FCC service to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association. In 2001, she was named as the organization's President and Chief Executive Officer. She has also served of counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers, where she dealt primarily with telecommunications issues.

Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including Mobile Radio Technology Magazine and The Private Wireless Magazine. She is currently licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Her appointment has been very welcome news to the nation's ham radio community, which in recent months has seen a noticeable increase in overt rules violations. Smith's appointment will make it clear to those who break the rules that the FCC intends to continue to work with the ham radio community to get regulatory violators to reform or, if necessary, take them

off the air.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

The ARRL seems very pleased with Smith's appointment. In a statement on Monday, January 26th, League President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, said that he was very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules. (QRZ.com, ARRL, others)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: K5D WILL BE ON THE AIR FEBRUARY 5TH

Some breaking news from the world of DX. This with word from Bob Allphin, K4UEE and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, that the long awaited Desecheo Island K5D operation will begin late in the day on February 12th.

In a widely distributed press statement the planners say that because Desecheo is so very rare that there are many, many hams worldwide that need KP5 for an all-time new one. Therefore, K4UEE and W0GJ are asking that you not contact the DXpedition on any band or using any mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition. This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pileups.

Allphin and Johnson also say that theirs is not to establish a world record for contacts. Because of this, there will not be any competitions for most band or mode QSOs, no certificate or awards for contacting the DXpedition more times than anyone else, and the like. In fact, they ask that those who already have Desecheo confirmed on a particular band or mode to, in their words, exercise restraint.

For those not aware, Desecheo Island is ranked the No.6 most-wanted contact worldwide. It's No.3 in Europe and No.2 in Asia. We will have more DX news later on in this week's newscast. (K5D Release)

**

RESCUE RADIO: US AND SOUTH AFRICA COOPERATE IN SEARCH FOR VESSEL IN DISTRESS

South Africa's Hamnet amateur radio distress agency was called out on Thursday, January 22nd. This, when the United States Coast Guard contacted the South African Radio League regarding a distress signal received from a yacht at the time believed to be some 200 miles off the coast of Madagascar. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, picks up the story from here:

News reports say that the Queequeg II was on an around the world sailing adventure when it was lost at sea. The reports note that the crew fought very rough seas for a day and a half before it capsized at about 16:30 UTC.

Amateur radio was brought into the search and rescue operation when South Africa's Hamnet was mobilized to assist in the search for the missing yacht following a request passed-on by the South African Radio League. It had been contacted by the United States Coast Guard.

Hamnet, in turn, contacted Alistair Campbell, ZS6MU. Campbell runs the daily South Africa-based Maritime Mobile Net. He was asked whether the net members had received any information regarding the missing vessel. When the operators of the network responded that they did not know of the yacht ZS6MU, he contacted the Reunion Island Coastguard. It then initiated a search and rescue operation. The net then remained in operation in case a radio distress message might be heard.

The yacht was eventually found floating upside down in the water. Lone survivor Leo Sherman was picked up by a merchant vessel. It was Sherman who told rescuers that two other men apparently went overboard without life jackets. They were identified as famed global sailor Quen Cultra of Onagra, Illinois and a maritime naturalist, Joe Strykowski, of Crystal River, Florida.

A several day search for Cultra and Strykowski was conducted by the international Rescue Coordination Center at Reunion Island. It was called off after searchers reasoned that their survival in the rough waters without life jackets meant that their possibility of survival was minimal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, monitoring this story from Los Angeles.

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According to news reports, a memorial is planned for Quen Cultra in 2010 on what would have been his 75th birthday. More about the around the world journey that he and his crewmates were on is on-line at www.queequegtwo.com (SARL, Kankakee Journal, ARNewsline,)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NO MORE SPACE TOURISTS AFTER 2009

Russia says that the International Space Station will be off limits to space tourists after 2009. This, as its crew grows from three to six. Roscosmos is Russia's space agency. In an interview with a Russian daily newspaper its director Anatoly Perminov said that the last commercial flights would be made this year. This will include the second flight by American millionaire Charles Simoni, KE7KDP, and another by ayet-to-be-named Kazakh national.
The Kazakh National Space Agency previously said that one of its cosmonauts would fly to the ISS in October, 2009. Roscosmos earlier announced that a Russian space tourist hopeful would miss out on a trip to the ISS and that a Kazakh cosmonaut would likely take his place. (G0SFJ, Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NASA SEEKS HAM HELP WITH STEREO SUN MISSION STUDY

NASA says it needs ham radio help to keep track of signals from the STEREO mission.

STEREO is an acronym for the twin Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory. It employs two nearly identical space-based observatories to provide the first-ever stereoscopic measurements to study the Sun. One leads the Earth in orbit and the other trails our planet by the same distance.

Chris St. Cyr of the Goddard Space Flight Center says that NASA's Deep Space Network downloads data from STEREO only three hours a day. He says that's plenty of time to capture all of the previous day's data, but the space agency would like to monitor the transmissions around the clock. To accomplish this St. Cyr says that hams experienced with receiving weak signals in the microwave region can participate in the historic mission by helping NASA capture the spacecraft's images.

Bill Thompson is the director of the STEREO Science Center at Goddard. He explains that hams would be a part of an amateur radio-based mini-Deep Space Network. One that that would monitor STEREO around the clock.

Thompson notes that the two spacecraft beam their data back to Earth via an X-band beacon. He says that anyone with a 10-meter dish antenna and a suitable receiver can pick up the spacecraft signals. He notes that the data rate is a slow 500 bits per second, and it takes 3 to 5 minutes to download a complete image.

So far, the mini-Network includes stations in the United Kingdom, France and Japan but Thompson is looking for more volunteers. Information on contacting Bill Thompson to become a part of this mission is on-line at http://stereo-ssc.nascom.nasa.gov/contact/contact.shtml (NASA)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9ELK repeater serving Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

**

ENFORCEMENT: PENNSYLVANIA EXTRA CLASS HAM ISSUED $4000 NAL

An Extra class ham in Pennsylvania has been issued a Notice of Apparent Liability in the amount of four thousand dollars. This, on allegations that Jose Torres, N3TX, of Philadelphia, apparently willfully and repeatedly operated his amateur station on an unauthorized frequency just below the 11 meter Citizens Band. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has more:

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According to federal documents filed in the case, the Federal Communications Commission investigation of Torres began in December 2007.

Agents responded to a complaint of over-the-air television interference from one of his neighbors and found transmissions going on below the CB Band at 26.71 Mhz.

Using direction-finding equipment, agents traced the source of the transmissions to Torres' home. When they were admitted to the home, the agents found Torres' transmitter turned off. They asked him to turn it on and found it had been set to 26.71 Mhz.

The documents say Torres denied making the transmissions and he claimed to be listening to Spanish transmissions from another station.

Torres voluntarily told the agents he holds an Extra Class Ham License with the call sign of N3TX. He was told by them he had no privileges to transmit on that band.

The case documents say Torres received a Notice of Violation in January 2008 and agreed he would cease illegal transmissions.

But, the documents say by February, the FCC received an email from the neighbor saying the interference had returned.

FCC agents returned to the area with monitoring and recording equipment in April 2008 and June 2008 and found transmissions again coming from Torres' residence.

They also noted in the complaint that in addition to being well out of band for his privileges, he failed to identify himself.

As a result of what the FCC called willful violations, it imposed the 4-thousand-dollar penalty in a filing dated January 6 of this year.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

Torres was given the usual 30 days to pay, request a reduction in the amount, or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

JUSTICE: ANOTHER ACCUSED IN THE MURDERS OF KD7VWJ AND KD7VWK ON TRIAL

The capital murder trial of a third defendant in the murder at sea of Thomas and Jackie Hawkes, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK, has begun in Southern California. 43-year-old John Fitzgerald Kennedy is accused of being the muscle man in the killings of a couple tied to an anchor and thrown off their boat off the coast of Southern California's Newport Beach.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Matt Murphy said the mastermind of the plan to steal the yacht was convicted killer Skylar Deleon. Deleon wanted to steal both the Hawke's yacht and their identity so he could rifle their life savings.

Like Deleon, Kennedy was charged with two counts of murder with the special circumstances of murder for financial gain and multiple

murder. Prosecutors are seeking the death sentence in the case.

Deleon has already been convicted of the murders and several other counts. He faces the death penalty when he is sentenced on March 20. (ARNewsline(tm) from news reports)

**

COMMUNICATIONS LAW: DTV DATE-CHANGE FAILS

In a surprising turn of events, the United States House of Representatives on Wednesday, January 28th failed to pass the Digital TV transition date change bill. This putting the move of the DTV transition date in doubt after all of the momentum seemed to be moving toward a four-month delay to June 12th.

As of this writing, February 17th remains the official transition date. The move to change the date went down to defeat when only 61% of the House members voted in favor. A 2/3 majority or a vote of 66.66% was required for passage. (CGC Communicator)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: MORE LAYOFFS AT MOTOROLA

In business news, word that mobile radio and handset maker Motorola Inc. says that it will cut 4,000 more jobs in 2009. This, in addition to 3,000 it announced last year.

Some 3000 of those lost in the new round of layoffs will be in the mobile devices business. About 1,000 jobs are tied to corporate functions and other business units.

The company said the move will save about $700 million a year starting in 2009, and totaling $1.5 billion in annual savings when combined with the previous cut. The move is the latest in cost-cutting measures by Motorola, which has been struggling to revive its business in recent years. (Published reports)

**

HAM RADIO OPS: CERTIFICATES WITH NO EVENT

From the ham radio ops department comes some good and some bad news from ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. He says that certificates for the 2008 January VHF Sweepstakes were mailed out on time.

The bad news is that unfortunately, they went out the door without the name of the event listed on the certificate.

Not to worry. The good news is that replacement certificates have already been printed. They were to be mailed out on Monday, January 26th. (VHF Reflector)

**

NEWSLINE FOLOW-UP: ROCHESTER - NOW THERE IS ONLY ONE

A follow-up to last weeks story on the 2009 Rochester New York Hamfest. As of Tuesday, January 27th, it appears that there is now only one organization now planning to hold the event. That's the Rochester Amateur Radio Association which says that it is a 75-year sponsor of the Rochester Hamfest and now appears to have possession of the www.rochesterhamfest.org website.

As late as Sunday, January 24th, typing in that URL would have taken you to the website operated by a ham named Harold Smith, K2HC, who was a longtime organizer of the Rochester event. As pointed out in the Syracuse Post Standard by columnist Lee Badman, KI2K, that web site, www. Rochesthamfest.org was claiming that the hamfest would be at the traditional site.

But, the Rochester Amateur Radio Association via its www.rochesterham.org also claimed that it would host the official event. It said that it was moving the hamfest to a new location at Rochester's Barnard Carnival Grounds and shortening the hamfest down to one day.

By Tuesday, some sort of accommodation seemingly had been reached. Now, typing in either URL's taking a net surfer to the Rochester Amateur Radio Association's website. Hopefully, that will put the matter permanently to rest. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ARRL HAPPENINGS: WB5SYT APPOINTED AS WEST GULF VICE DIRECTOR

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has appointed Oklahoma Section Manager J. John Thomason, WB5SYT, as the new Vice Director in the West Gulf Division. An Extra class licensee, Thomason has been an ARRL member for more than 20 years and has served as Oklahoma Section Manager since 2003.

Among his achievements while Section Manager, Thompson supported and promoted passage of Oklahoma Senate Bill 426. This measure permits the installation of an Amateur Radio antenna or an Amateur Radio antenna support structure at a height deemed sufficient to accommodate the communications needs of radio amateurs in the state.

Thomason replaces David Woolweaver, K5RAV, who moved up to Director with the recent retirement of former Division Director Coy Day, N5OK. (ARRL)

**

HAM HEROES: NATIONAL SECURITY MEDAL AWARDED TO FORMER NCTC DIRECTOR K0DQ

In one of his last official duties as President of the United States, George W. Bush presented the National Security Medal to retired Vice Admiral John "Scott" Redd, K0DQ. This, at a White House Ceremony on January
16th.

Redd was recognized by the President for his more than 40 years of exceptional service to the Nation strengthening its intelligence capabilities and improving national security. The National Security Medal is America's highest intelligence award reserved for those with distinguished achievements or outstanding contributions in the field.

Redd became the first Senate confirmed director of the National Counter-Terrorism Center in August 2005 and served in that position until November 2007. The National Counter-Terrorism Center leads the United States Government's efforts in combating terrorism by analyzing and sharing
threat information and integrating all elements of national power to defeat terrorist threats at home and abroad.

An avid amateur radio operator, Redd has won numerous amateur radio operator awards including seven world championships. In May of 2008 he was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

Redd is a native of Sidney, Iowa. He graduated second in his class from the United States Naval Academy in 1966. He and his wife Donna currently reside in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. (ARRL, eHam, others)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NYC LEARNING COMPLEX NAMED FOR LATE HUSBAND OF WB2MGP

Though a bit late in being reported, word that a new school in the Big Apple has been named in honor of the late husband of New York City educator Carole Perry-Parker, WB2MGP. Amateur Radio Newsline's Rebecca Bruce has the details:

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The opening of the Jerome Parker Educational Complex was celebrated at the New Springville, Staten Island school campus late last October. The center is named in memory of Jerome Parker, the late husband of New York City educator Carole Perry-Parker, WB2MGP.

The new complex houses students from four schools. These are the Marsh Avenue Expeditionary Learning School for middle school students, the Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning School for high school students, the College of Staten Island High School for International Studies, and Hungerford School for students with autism.

Several hundred people attended the event. Dignitaries attending included Staten Island New York Borough President James P. Molinaro, Assemblyman Michael Cusick and Councilman Vincent Ignizio.

Jerome Parker was a former New York City Board of Education official who founded Talent Unlimited High School in Manhattan. He was best known for his outreach efforts for children with special needs. In keeping with that outreach theme, the learning center will eventually have an operational ham radio station for all of the schools to use. WB2MGP tells Newsline that she plans to teach ham radio as an after-school program while training science teachers to get their own ham radio licenses and eventually take

over the program.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rebecca Bruce, In Los Angeles.

--

In accepting the honor for her late husband, WB2MGP said that while for her it was a bitter-sweet moment, that all gathered for the dedication were present to concentrate on the sweet part. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

**

YHOTY: NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE 2009 YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. The "Young Ham of the Year Award" or YHOTY is presented annually to a licensed amateur radio operator who is 18 years of age or younger. He or she must be a resident of the United States, its territories including Puerto Rico, or any Canada province, who has provided outstanding service to his or her nation or community, or improved the state of the art in communications through the amateur radio hobby service.

A nominee should be someone who has done something outstanding as an amateur radio operator. Perhaps it was something special he or she did for his or her community through the Amateur service. Maybe it was some outstanding achievement that led to an improvement in amateur radio in his or her area. Or perhaps he or she was successful in recruiting a lot of new hams, as was the case with 2008's honoree, Emily Stewart, KC0PTL.

All nominations must be received by May 30, 2009 on an official application and be accompanied by verification materials. Applications forms are available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope mailed to the Young Ham of the Year Award, c/o Newsline, 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita, California 91350. These nominating applications are also available for electronic download from www.arnewsline.org. Just scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open."

The Young Ham of the Year Award is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Newsline, with corporate support from Vertex-Standard and CQ Communications, Inc.. (ARNewsline(tm))

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: K6DUE CALL NOW PART OF ISS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The K6DUE callsign of the late NBC Newsman Roy Neal is now the call of the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club. According to ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, the call letters will initially

be used for ground station operations but may be used for other activities in the future.

For those not aware, Roy Neal., K6DUE, spent more than five decades as a broadcaster specializing in science and aerospace reporting for the National Broadcasting Company. He is generally credited with convincing then NASA chief Jess Moore to permit ham gear to be flown on board the early space shuttle missions. The first of these was STS-9 that carried Spacelab One and Mission Specialist Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who made the first-ever ham radio contacts from a spacecraft on-orbit.

After Garriott's successful flight, Neal and several others formed the group known as SAREX -- the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. Later called the Space Amateur Radio Experiment, it was a program that promoted and supported the use of amateur radio by astronauts in low earth orbit aboard the United States Space Shuttle. This, to communicate with other amateur radio stations around the world especially those in classrooms as a scientific demonstration. It was superseded by the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS program that we hear so much about today.

Roy Neal, K6DUE, passed away at age 82 on August 15, 2003, following open heart surgery. On November 11th 2003 the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station organization announced an on-the-air event to commemorate Roy Neal's lifetime of achievements in ham radio. Now, with the acquisition of his K6DUE call letters by the International Space Station Amateur Radio Club, Roy Neal's contributions to manned ham radio operations from space will live on in perpetuity. (ARNewsline(tm), KA3HDO)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: JAPAN LAUNCHES SIX HAM RADIO MICROSATS

Japan has launched six microsat ham radio satellites. The tiny birds were carried aloft on January 23rd at 03:54 UTC from the Yoshinubo Launch Complex on Tanegashima Island.

The small satellites with Amateur Radio capabilities launched with this satellite are SDS-1, SOHLA-1, SPRITESAT, PRISM, KKS-1, STARS-1, and the KAGAYAKI. They were a combined secondary payload to the GOSAT Ibuki Greenhouse Gases Observing Satellite. Further information on the six new ham radio birds including frequencies and orbital data can be found on the AMSAT website. (JN1GKZ, AMSAT)

**

HAM TECHNOLOGY: BRINGING A 6 METER REPEATER TO LIFE

Construction of the 53.77 MHz Gunstock, New Hampshire 6 meter repeater has been memorialized in a series of photos now on the World-Wide-Web. The pictures do their best to capture the fun and excitement of bringing the repeater to life from a famed skiing resort. Just go to http://www.gemoto.com/cnharc/gunstock.htm on the World-Wide-Web. (CGC)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: CALIFORNIA MAY PERMIT ONLY ECO-FRIENDLY TV'S

Legislators in California are drawing up the first rules in the US requiring retailers to sell only the most energy-efficient television models being manufactured beginning in 2011.

Flat-screen televisions use far more energy than conventional models and some plasma screen televisions demand up to four times as much. Energy regulators say curbing the number of power-hungry television sets in the state could save as much energy as used by over 86,000 homes in a given year.

The move is opposed by some television manufacturers. They claim that regulations such as this could bump-up the average price of televisions by a significant amount, limit consumer choice and encourage shoppers to buy online or outside the state for models not covered by the rules.

California, the nation's most populous state, requires huge amounts of power for its industries and energy-hungry population. Similar rules requiring refrigerators and other domestic appliances to be energy efficient have been in place for decades. (London Daily Telegraph)

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WORLDBEAT: GIANT 16 METER BEAM ERECTED IN FINLAND

A full size, 160 meter beam has been erected for use in a recent radiosports event. This, as the group at Radio Arcala in Finland put up the 39-ton, 3-element full-size monster in mid-January so as to have had it ready for the 2009 C Q World Wide 160 meter contest from the 23rd to the 25th of January.

But, the large low frequency array was put up for more than just contesting at the OH8X. station. Contest. Radio Arcala is also cooperating with the University of Oulu in several areas of High Frequency propagation study that require an antenna of this size and directivity. They also welcome and acknowledge field reports to oh1wz (at) sral (dot) fi.

(GB2RS)

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DX

In DX, G3TBK will shortly resume operations from the Caribbean Island of Saint Vincent, using the callsign J88DR. Operation will continue until mid-March using CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV, using all HF bands. QSL via G3TBK, either using the bureau or direct. Please note that no further cards will be answered until mid-March. All cards received for previous operations by J88DR have now been mailed out.

And word that HS0ZGQ will be on the air from Koh Samui Island until February 12th. QSL to DL1MJF.

J79XBI will be on the air until April 1st while on holiday in Dominica. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB. QSL via SM0XBI.

Lastly, to mark the Millennium of Lithuania, a number of radio club members are on the air with the prefix LY1000 until the 1st of March. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL as directed on the air

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: RECYCLING ALKALINE BATTERIES

And finally this week a word about recycling spent batteries. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, has the details:

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Its widely known that the U.S. government classifies alkaline batteries as non-hazardous waste. That means that in most places they can be disposed of in normal household trash.

But not all states agree. California for example has laws that require you to properly recycle them. And even some cities and counties are getting into the forced alkaline battery recycling act. The February edition of Popular Photography magazine notes that Hennepin County, Minnesota also requires that you dispose of them through proper recycling.

And, depending where you live, Nickel-Cadmium, Nickel Metal Hydride, Lithium-Ion and even old fashioned Carbon based cells can be considered as hazardous waste. This means that you cannot just toss them into the garbage can. Rather you must dispose of these cells according to federal, state and local laws for your area. In most cases this means dropping them off at a recycling center.

So what do you do to find a used battery recycling center? Take to the World-Wide-Web and go to www.rbrc.org to locate one close to you.

And I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, in Los Angeles.

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As local, laws are constantly changing, you might want to check your city and state websites to find out what restrictions on battery disposal are in your geographic locale. (ARNewsline(tm) adapted from PopPhoto and other sourcs.)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm)

only
official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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33. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 4 (Friday, January 30, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-01-30 22:13:13 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090130221146.008D2311D9@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2243
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 4
January 30, 2009
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* + J. John Thomason, WB5SYT, Appointed West Gulf Division Vice Director

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+ Field Day Packets Available February 2
+ ARRL Expands Member Access to QST Archive
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ARRL Scholarship Applications Due February 1
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Amateur Radio Operations to Begin Again on Midway Atoll
Korea Unveils Stamp Celebrating ARDF

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> LAURA L. SMITH NAMED TO AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT ROLE

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the
vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as
Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's
Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than
10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio
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Service <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA) <http://www.ita-relay.com/default.htm>, now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer. While in that position, she was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band; this was adopted by the FCC in 2004.

Smith returns to the FCC after serving Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there, she dealt with telecommunications matters and provided counsel to numerous entities in the private radio and public safety communities. Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including "Mobile Radio Technology Magazine" and "The Private Wireless Magazine."

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service."

Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

When Hollingsworth was appointed as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Harrison said that Hollingsworth "established a visible presence in the Service and very quickly, and with very little investment of Commission resources, using little more than the awareness of an enforcement presence, created strong deterrence against rule

violations."

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules. Ever since Riley Hollingsworth announced his retirement, we have met with the Enforcement Chief numerous times and corresponded with FCC Chairman Martin to ensure this position remains intact at FCC. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

==> MICHAEL J. COPPS NAMED ACTING FCC CHAIRMAN

On Thursday, January 22, President Barack Obama named current FCC Commissioner Michael Copps as Acting Chairman of the Commission. Rumors circulated in mid-January that technology executive Julius Genachowski would be nominated as Chairman. Copps will serve as Acting Chairman until a new Commissioner/Chairman is confirmed.

"I am honored to be designated as Acting Chairman of the FCC," Copps said in a statement released by the FCC. "I thank President Obama for his confidence in me and for this opportunity to serve. I know that I have a truly gifted and terrific team to work with. I pledge every effort I am capable of to help steer the Commission through its current transition to new leadership."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Copps on his appointment. "Whenever we have sought a meeting with him or his staff, his door has always been open to us," he said.

Currently serving a second term as FCC Commissioner, Copps began his first term with the Commission in 2001. Before his appointment to the FCC, he served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade Development at the US Department of Commerce, where he was previously Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Basic Industries. Copps came to Washington in 1970, joining the staff of Senator Ernest Hollings (D-SC) and served for more than a decade as his Chief of Staff. He has also held positions at a Fortune 500 company and at a major trade association. Before coming to Washington, Copps was a professor of American history at Loyola University of the South. He received a BA from Wofford College and earned a PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Upon being sworn in for his second term as FCC Commissioner in 2006, Copps said that "The last four and a half years have been tremendously transformative for the world of telecommunications and the media. The future holds even greater challenge. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on the Commission, with the Congress and with all the other stakeholders to help bring the most advanced, accessible

and cost-effective communications system in the world to all American consumers."

==> J. JOHN THOMASON, WB5SYT, APPOINTED WEST GULF DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR

With the approval of the ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has appointed Oklahoma Section Manager J. John Thomason, WB5SYT, as Vice Director in the West Gulf Division. Thomason replaces Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, who moved up to Director with the retirement of Division Director Coy Day, N5OK, earlier this month.

An Extra class licensee, Thomason has been an ARRL member for more than 20 years and has served as Oklahoma Section Manager since 2003. While Section Manager, he supported and prompted passage of Oklahoma Senate Bill 426. This bill allows "for the erection of an Amateur Radio antenna or an Amateur Radio antenna support structure at a height and dimension sufficient to accommodate Amateur Radio Service communications." Thomason also represented the League in 2004 at the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster's (VOAD) national conference. Based on an article in the November 2007 issue of QST, Thomason, with assistance from University of Oklahoma personnel, developed a frequency coordination protocol that is now used at that school's home football games.

"The opportunity and honor to serve the West Gulf Division as Vice Director is exciting," Thomason said. "It is my desire to diligently work with Director Woolweaver to ensure Division members are informed, to provide input and feedback on policies and procedures pertinent to the League's missions and to accomplish what is necessary to have the interest and the availability to inform through developed relationships with Division members and League headquarters staff."

"I have known John for several years," Woolweaver said. "He has been very successful as a Section Manager, especially in the areas of Emergency Preparedness and legislative action. His unmistakable talents in those areas will be very useful in his new role as Vice Director."

Thomason said continuing "the excellent League service provided by my predecessor Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, is humbling and enabling. His skill set and presence at so many League functions in the Oklahoma Section and beyond is truly a high standard to obtain. He has shown a highly informed outreach and capacity to listen and communicate while making the Amateur Radio Service visible through the League. He will grow in these efforts as Director while following in the richness of professionalism of Director Coy Day, N5OK.

"It is my hope to sustain and flourish the wonderful relationship developed via my role as Oklahoma Section Manager. The relationships and fondness for our fellow Amateur Radio operators and capacity therein to enhance our public service with League strength is very important to me in my role as Vice Director. This has developed by being active at

League events, club meetings, Nets and served agency functions. We make a difference in Amateur Radio operators' lives by listening, caring and expressing this passion to them. A birthday card or a handwritten note of encouragement during family challenges clearly communicates that the League cares for and about them as people and their contributions to Amateur Radio. It has been stated that we meet people based on what in common, but grow on the basis of how we are different. I feel this is our opportunity to strengthen our collective League mission during difficult times, be they economic or frequency threats."

Thomason is a member of the Edmond Amateur Radio Society (EARS). He has earned DXCC and Worked All States (WAS) on CW, PSK and SSB. Thomason is a vocational evaluator with the State of Oklahoma's Department of Rehabilitation Services. He holds a BA in psychology and an MS in rehabilitation counseling.

When Thomason moved up to Vice Director, Dean Feken, KL7MA, of Perry, was appointed as the new ARRL Oklahoma Section Manager. The Rules and Regulations of the ARRL Field Organization state that when a vacancy in the office of Section Manager occurs between elections, the position is filled by appointment by the Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager, in consultation with the Director. MVP Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, consulted with Woolweaver and Thomason in filling the Section Manager position. Feken, an Extra class licensee, has been the Oklahoma Official Observer Coordinator since the spring 2004 and an Official Observer since fall 2003. Feken's term as Section Manager continues through September 30, 2010. The nomination announcement for the next term of office for Oklahoma Section Manager is scheduled to appear in the April 2010 issue of QST.

==> LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD NOW EASIER THAN EVER

In order to better accommodate new users as well as existing account holders, ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) has been updated <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. According to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Assistant Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, these improvements were made based LoTW help questions and listening to users.

"Through the efforts of Membership and Volunteer Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, and Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, we have also added an automated results table on the LoTW Users Home Page that lists members in numeric order who have achieved the Triple Play Award," said ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B. "IT personnel have also fixed a number of longstanding issues with Logbook in recent weeks, and some additional enhancements are underway."

Added enhancements include:
* An LoTW User's Corner that includes quick links to log onto your account, save or renew a certificate and ways to address PC failure.
* The GET STARTED section <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/start.html> has been simplified with links for each of the four steps in the certificate process.

* LoTW instructions are now available in nine languages: English, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Russian, Slovenian and Spanish. Options to select a language have always been available, but they have now been moved up front to the GET STARTED page. The languages are identified with icons of flags to represent each language.
* The GET STARTED pdf file has been updated to include new screenshots and refinement of some of the processes.
* The software download section now consists of only three icons representing the three operating systems for which software is available: Windows, Mac and Linux. The user simply selects their operating system and they are redirected to the download specific to their system.
* A new link has been added for QSL Manager, Club Calls and DXpeditions. This link gives details on establishing an account for these special operations and includes a section for 1x1 call signs.
* A new PowerPoint overview is available from the LoTW site. This presentation has also been added to our multimedia library <http://www.arrl.org/multimedia>. The program is an overview of LoTW and what users can expect from the service. There are screenshots of LoTW pages, as well as a condensed version of the certificate and award application process.

With more than 200 million QSOs submitted, ARRL's Logbook of The World system is a repository of log records submitted by users from around the world <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10576/?nc=1>. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. Yaesu is the principal sponsor of the LoTW Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/02/10138/>.

==> JOHN SCOTT REDD, K0DQ, AWARDED NATION'S TOP INTELLIGENCE AWARD

Vice Admiral John Scott Redd, USN (ret), K0DQ, received the National Security Medal in a White House ceremony earlier this month. In one of his last official duties as President of the United States, George W. Bush recognized Redd for "his more than 40 years of exceptional service to the Nation, strengthening its intelligence capabilities and improving national security," and called Redd "an innovator, a strategic thinker, an inspirational leader and a dedicated servant to the Nation, respected for his vision, courage and integrity." During his remarks, the President also thanked Redd's wife Donna for her service over many years. The Redds' daughter and sons also attended the White House ceremony.

The National Security Medal is America's highest intelligence award. It is awarded to any citizen of the United States with distinguished achievements or outstanding contributions, on or after 26 July 1947, in the field of intelligence relating to the national security of the United States of America. Previous recipients of the National Security Medal include Bill Donovan, founder of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS); J. Edgar Hoover, former FBI Director; Robert Gates, US Secretary

of Defense, and Brent Scowcroft, National Security Advisor to Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. W. Bush.

In 1995, Redd founded and was named commander of the Navy's Fifth Fleet <http://www.cusnc.navy.mil/>. The fleet operates in waters surrounding the Middle East and is the only new fleet since World War II. He served as director of strategic plans and policy on the Joint Chiefs of Staff <http://www.jcs.mil/> from 1996 until he retired from the Navy two years later. Redd was named Chief Operating Officer of the Coalition Provisional Authority <http://www.cpa-iraq.org/> in March 2004, but the White House recalled him a month later to lead the commission that examined the intelligence failures that led up to the Iraq war. He earlier served as Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad, for which he received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service.

In August 2005, Congress confirmed Redd -- a 1966 graduate of the US Naval Academy and a Fulbright Scholar -- as Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) <http://www.nctc.gov/>; he retired in November 2007. The NCTC is the nation's repository for counterterrorism intelligence and sets the nation's war plan for fighting terrorists. The center has few employees of its own and, instead, brings together approximately 400 analysts and other employees from agencies such as the CIA, the Homeland Security Department and the FBI to pore over data collected by other agencies. The NCTC houses the nation's terrorist watch list and distributes it throughout the government nightly. It holds video teleconferences three times a day to keep the White House and the intelligence community informed about terrorist activity and counter-terror operations. "We say, 'Mr. President, here's what the intelligence community believes, and here's where agencies disagree,'" Redd said in describing how the NCTC operates. "So now he can see what the disagreement is and why. Because intelligence is not an arithmetic thing, there's a lot of judgment that goes into it."

An active ham, contester and DXer for more almost 50 years, Redd -- a native of Sydney, Iowa -- enjoys both CW and phone. In 1971, Redd, then K0DQI, won the CQ World Wide DX Contest (phone) from Mexico as 6D1AA. He also won the ARRL International DX Contest, both phone and CW, in 1972 from Mexico as XE1IIJ; this was the first time a single operator surpassed 10,000 contacts in a contest. In 1973, Redd won the ARRL Phone DX Contest from the DX side (Mexico) as 6J9AA, and in 1986, he won the ARRL CW from the US as W3GRF. All of these wins were as Single Operator, High Power. Redd went on to place third in his first CQ Worked All Prefix (WPX) (CW) contest in 1995 as A92Q from Bahrain. Throughout his ham radio career, Redd has held many DX call signs: P40Q, 3V8DQ, A92Q, XE1IIJ, 4A4AA/1, 6J9AA, 6D1AA, 6G1AA, 6J9AA, 4C5AA and 4C9AA, just to name a few.

In 2008, Redd was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/16/10100/>. The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or

not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, and those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to Amateur Radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet.

==> ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES 21 EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRANTS

In December, the ARRL Executive Committee reviewed grant applications for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>, awarding nearly $22,000 to 21 schools. More than 350 schools across the country have received support from the ETP in the form of grants for equipment, curriculum and resources, as well as teacher in-service training through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. The Executive Committee reviews applications for equipment and resource grants twice each year, in December and May.

ETP Grants

ETP grants consist of Amateur Radio equipment, enabling the school to set up a station. Schools may receive activity kits in addition to station equipment. The following schools recently received ETP grants:

Phillip Magruder Middle School, Torrance, California: This grant application proposed an after school program based on three pillars: To instruct students on the basics of radio technology and allow them to practice using the technology to communicate effectively; to allow students to construct a radio station and take licensing classes to be able to use their station, and to use the context of the club (ham radio) to explore careers through related field trips and interaction with hams in the community. The proposal is well thought out and presented and it represents a program that has good potential for success.

Bradshaw Mountain Middle School, Dewey, Arizona: The teacher proposes to integrate Amateur Radio and shortwave radio into the school culture and classroom curriculum to provide opportunities for students of all levels during a combined in-school and after school program. Their goals are to establish a shortwave station allowing students and teachers to listen to transmissions from other areas, including support for Spanish language instruction, expose students to world cultures through radio and news broadcasts from and for other countries; students will put together a ham radio station that will be used to support other content areas of instruction, such as science, and to develop a portable station capable to allow for off school site participation in local ham activities to provide for school outreach. This is another well thought out and presented grant application with broad goals and objectives. This program has a good potential for success.

McDermitt Combined School, McDermitt, Nevada: This program is being sponsored by the local County Emergency Coordinator. The school is in a remote area and serves an at-risk population. The main theme of this program is EmComm and it creates exposure to public service-related career fields that are normally not considered by the students. The program is well supported by the local ham community.

Worthington Public School, Worthington, Minnesota: The lead teacher for this program is a Teachers Institute graduate and is a school resource officer (a police officer assigned to the school district to facilitate law enforcement-school connections). The teacher has developed a program proposal based on a portable ham radio station that he can take with him from school-to-school to support his outreach efforts.

West Elementary School, Zion, Illinois: The lead teacher (administrator) for this program is Nathan McCray, one of the Teachers Institute instructors. Nathan had a well established ETP program at his former school; when he transferred to another school, he left the program in the capable hands of his wife. Nathan is now vice-principal and is starting up an ETP program at his new school. He is requesting only the basic station components to get the program going at the new school.

Bayside High School, Palm Bay, Florida: The lead teacher for this program is a Teachers Institute graduate. He articulates a program proposal that uses ham radio in the engineering curriculum of this magnet school. This will be a good fit and the teacher is well prepared to execute the plan.

Malcolm Bridge Middle School, Bogart, Georgia: The lead teacher for this program is a Teachers Institute graduate. The program presented has a good potential of success.

Samsula Academy, New Smyrna Beach, Florida: This applicant is requesting a basic ham radio station for the school and some curriculum materials to support an after school ham radio class. The local ham radio club is supporting this program in the hopes of repeating the apparent success they have had at another local school.

Horizon Elementary School, Homestead, Florida: This school is running a parallel program with Samsula Academy; they are requesting the same basic ham radio station to support their ongoing program.

Progress Grants

In order for a school to be considered for a Progress Grant, it must already be an ETP School. If a teacher attends a session of the Teachers Institute, that school is automatically considered an ETP School. The following schools received Progress Grants:

University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, Arkansas: The lead professor is a graduate of the Teachers Institute and a long time ETP school. The professor wants to begin integrating the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute and to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.

Westside Elementary School, Searcy, Arkansas: The lead teacher for this program is a recent Teachers Institute graduate. She wants to include the space exploration through robotics unit that was presented during the Teachers Institute into her elementary school curriculum. She has adapted the content to the grade level of her students and has an interesting approach. The approach will use the activity to provide basic instruction of electronics.

Olde Towne Middle School, Ridgeland, Mississippi: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute. The teacher wants to begin integrating the ham radio satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute and to expand his program to include space in the classroom content. He is requesting the basic components to make up the satellite ground station.

Ocean Lakes High School, Virginia Beach, Virginia: The lead teacher for this program is a recent Teachers Institute graduate. He wants to include the space exploration unit that was presented during the Teachers Institute into his high school curriculum and is requesting the ancillary parts of the Mars Lander activity. These parts are added to the Boe-Bot robotics instructor's board that he received during the Teachers Institute, including sensors, RF data link and ATV components.

Livingston High School, Livingston, New Jersey: The lead teacher for this program is a recent Teachers Institute graduate. He wants to expand the use of the activity board resources he learned about during the Institute into his regular curriculum.

Petrova Elementary School, Saranac Lake, New York: This applicant is requesting assistance in obtaining licensing resource materials for the school radio club. The resources obtained through this grant will be housed in a club library for multiple users. This request is in support of an existing program that includes a radio station at the school.

East Elementary, Zion, Illinois: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute. The teacher wants to begin integrating the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute and to expand her program to include space in the classroom content. Additionally, she is requesting a dual-band handheld radio for use with the FM satellites.

Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute. The teacher wants to begin integrating the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute and to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.

Sister Lakes Elementary School, Dowagiac, Michigan: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute. The teacher wants to begin integrating the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute and to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.

Granite Bay Montessori School, Roseville, California: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute and probably the most proactive of all the graduates to date. He is requesting support to make the school radio station solar powered and expand the content of this program to include alternative energy sources.

Marist School, Atlanta, Georgia: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute. The teacher wants to begin integrating the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute and to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.

Nichols Junior High School, Arlington, Texas: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute and a long time ETP school. The teacher wants to begin integrating the use of ham radio satellites into his curriculum as demonstrated during the Institute. He is requesting a basic satellite ground station for working the FM satellites.

A goal of the ARRL Education & Technology Program is to improve the quality of education by providing an educationally sound curriculum that employs Amateur Radio to integrate technology, math, science, geography and language arts with core curricula. Amateur Radio and an understanding of radio science are keys to building Wireless Technology Literacy, another important objective.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Sitting around a secret sea, worship a secret Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: On Tuesday, January 27, we saw another one of those "almost-a-sunspot" emerge in the Sun's low latitude, so it was probably an old Solar Cycle 23 spot; it was gone the next day. Sunspot numbers for January 22-28 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69, 70, 68.8, 69.8, 69.9, 69.7 and 69.5 with a mean of 69.5. The estimated planetary A indices were 1, 1, 1, 1, 10, 4 and 2 with a mean of 2.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 1, 1, 1, 9, 2 and 1 with a mean of 2.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by G. K. Chesterton's "The Ballad of the White Horse" <http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/The_Ballad_of_the_White_Horse>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for the SARL Youth Day Sprint on January 31. The QRP Winter Fireside SSB Sprint is February 1. Next week is the School Club Roundup on February 9-13. The Minnesota QSO Party and the FYBO Winter QRP Field Day are on February 7. On February 7-8, look for the Vermont QSO Party, the 10-10 Winter Phone QSO Party, the Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities, the British Columbia QSO Challenge, the New Mexico QSO Party and the FMRE International RTTY Contest. The Delaware QSO Party is February 7-9, and the North American

Sprint (CW) and the FM Simplex Contest are February 8. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, February 8, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, February 20, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Field Day Packets Available February 2: Get ready for ARRL Field Day, June 27-28, 2009. Packets will be available February 2 on the ARRL Field Day Web site <www.arrl.org/fieldday>. Packets include the complete rules (including changes for 2009). Other reference items that will be available include forms, Section abbreviations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

* ARRL Expands Member Access to QST Archive: ARRL is pleased to announce that online access to the QST archive <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html> will be expanded. Beginning February 1, 2009, ARRL members will be able to search and view QST -- from December 1915 through December 2005 right from their computer. With an additional year -- 2005 -- added to the viewable archive, this valuable benefit is available to all ARRL members. As an added benefit, ARRL Diamond Club members at the Brass level and above -- as well as ARRL Maxim Society members -- will be able to get images from the entire QST archive, right up through December 2008, an additional three years <http://www.arrl.org/diamondclub>. According to ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, this is the first new benefit that has been added to the Diamond Club since the Diamond Terrace opened in 2007. "Given the popularity of the QST online archive," Hobart said, "I hope that Diamond Club members and the Maxim Society members will enjoy exclusive access to the most recent four years of QST with our appreciation for their generosity. Perhaps the expanded QST viewable

archive will inspire other ARRL members to participate in the Diamond Club and enjoy the other benefits available to Diamond Club members, as well." The online archive was first introduced to members in fall 2008, providing PDF copies of articles from the huge QST archive, from December 1915 through December 2004. Since then, thousands of members have enjoyed searching, viewing and printing their favorite articles, projects and more. The membership benefit is a service of the ARRL Technical Information Service (TIS) <http://www.arrl.org/tis/>. Access to the archive is free for ARRL members. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. An interest in Amateur Radio is the only essential qualification of membership. ARRL membership is $39 per year in the US. For a complete list of membership benefits and dues, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

* Deadline to Order 75th Sweepstakes Mugs and Pins Fast Approaching: Time is running out to order your 2008 ARRL November Sweepstakes mugs and pins. If you submitted a log with more than 100 QSOs, you qualify for a Sweepstakes Participation pin. If you submitted a log with a Clean Sweep -- working all 80 ARRL/RAC sections -- you qualify for a Clean Sweep coffee mug. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, all orders need to be postmarked by January 31. If you would like to order a Sweepstakes pin or mug, you can either send a copy of your Sweepstakes summary sheet (if you filed a paper log) or a copy of the first page of your Cabrillo file (if you submitted an electronic log via e-mail) with your check for the correct amount; orders need to be postmarked by January 31 in order to qualify. Sweepstakes Participation pins are $6; Clean Sweep mugs are $16 this year. All costs include shipping charges. Kutzko advises that these items are not in stock. "We will make our order to our supplier once we know how many requests we have," he explained. "Mugs and pins will likely be shipped in late March. The 75th running of the November Sweepstakes was a great event, with lots of participation and fun! Be sure to commemorate your effort with a pin or mug this year."

* ARRL Scholarship Applications Due February 1: The deadline for ARRL Foundation scholarship applications is February 1, 2009. Applications must be postmarked on or before February 1 and must include the student's most recent transcript. This year, the Foundation expects to award up to 60 general scholarships ranging in amounts from $500 to $2500. The most prestigious Foundation scholarship is the William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship, awarded to one high school senior each year. After the student has received all financial aid he or she is qualified for, other scholarships and awards and family contributions, the Goldfarb Scholarship will cover any remaining expenses (room and board, tuition, fees and books) for a four-year undergraduate curriculum at an accredited university in one of the following courses of study: business-related computers, medical or nursing fields, engineering or sciences. This award to an active radio amateur is based on outstanding qualifications, need and other funding sources. ARRL Chief Development Officer and Foundation Secretary Mary Hobart, K1MMH, said, "Providing

scholarships to young hams who pursue higher education is one of the most rewarding activities of the ARRL Foundation. The expressions of gratitude from scholarship winners and their families make it clear that the awards are contributing directly their success and to the future of Amateur Radio." All the information about the ARRL Scholarships for FCC licensed radio amateurs, including descriptions, application forms and instructions can be found on the ARRL Foundation Web site <http://www.arrlf.org>.

* Desecheo Island DXpedition Granted Call Sign: The DXpedition to Desecheo Island -- February 12-26 -- will use call sign K5D. "As soon as we land on Desecheo, two stations will be immediately activated," said DXpedition co-leader Bob Allphin, K4UEE. Stations will continue to operate until the final moments of departure on February 26." Because Desecheo is very rare, Allphin said that "there are many, many hams worldwide that need KP5 for an all-time new one. Therefore, we are asking that you not contact the DXpedition on any band/mode that you have confirmed from a previous DXpedition. This will allow the people who really need a new DXCC entity a better opportunity to get through the pileups. Our objective is not to establish a world record for contacts. There will be no 'greenies,' no boxes to check, no competitions for most band/mode QSOs, no certificate or awards for contacting the DXpedition more times than anyone else. So if you have KP5 already confirmed on a particular band/mode, we respectfully ask that you exercise restraint. If, late in the DXpedition, we are calling CQ for contacts, we will welcome your call." Desecheo currently sits at number 7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list; the island is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe. Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

* Amateur Radio Operations to Begin Again on Midway Atoll: The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced on Monday, January 26 that they would once again allow Amateur Radio operators the opportunity to operate from Midway Atoll. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002. The USFWS started a program earlier this month to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio To ensure the safety of the wildlife on the Refuge, the USFWS said that Amateur Radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009. "Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted," said Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown. "There is 120 V power available at the operation site. Any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators. Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity," Brown said, "this [Amateur Radio] opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis." Brown has the

authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals. For more information, please contact Brown via e-mail <Matt_D_Brown@fws.gov> or by phone at 808-954-4818. Lodging arrangements can be made with Darlene Holst via e-mail <dholst@chugach-ak.com> or by phone at 808-954-4801. Midway Atoll is located in the North Pacific Ocean, approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu.

* Korea Unveils Stamp Celebrating ARDF: Korea has issued a postage stamp commemorating the 2008 Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF) World Championships. The ARDF World Championships, held in Korea and hosted by the Korean Amateur Radio League, were September 2-7, 2008. More than 450 participants from 28 countries came to Korea to compete. Upon issuance of the stamp, Korea said it hoped that the "World Championships will provide a momentum to stimulate public interest and participation in Amateur Radio." ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, said that Team USA had their best showing ever at the 2008 World Championships: "We had four Top 10 finishes in the two days of fox-finding competition, first with 2 meter AM signals, and then with 80 meter CW signals. ARRL's team faced more than 300 of the planet's best foxtailers that represented 24 other national Amateur Radio societies." ARDF combines Amateur Radio skills with the map and compass skills of orienteering in a timed race where individual competitors navigate through diverse wooded terrain while searching for radio transmitters. The rules of the sport and international competitions are organized by the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). See the stamp here: <http://www.koreastamp.go.kr/sp/eg/speg0101.jsp?page_num=2>.

Correction: In last week's ARRL Letter, we inadvertently used an outdated URL in referring to the Network Engineers Repeater Association. You can find NERA on the Web at <http://www.neradc.org>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW
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delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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34. Scholarship Opportunity

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-03 13:52:52 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090203133901.5C9143086F@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2244
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

AMATEUR RADIO
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer forty eight (48) scholarships for the academic year 2009 - 2010 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds two of these scholarships. The remaining forty-eight (48) are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from $5,000 to $500 with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs. Non-USA residents are eligible to apply for some of the scholarships. Clubs, especially those in California, Delaware, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin (areas of preferred residence for some of the scholarships), are encouraged to announce these opportunities at their meetings, in their club newsletters, during training classes, on their nets and on their world wide web home pages.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to March 30, 2009 from:
FAR Scholarships
Post Office Box 831
Riverdale, MD 20738

Applications are also available for download from the Foundation's web site http://www.farweb.org/.

35. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1643 - February 6 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-06 10:02:39 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090206015759.01621178@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2245
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1643 - February 6 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1643 with a release date of Friday, February 6th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. The International Telecommunications Union takes another look at BPL, amateurs in Sweden get 6 meters while hams in the United States and Australia gear up as mother nature takes her toll. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1643 coming your way right now.

**

THE BPL WAR: ITU AGAIN LOOKS AT BROADBAND OVER POWERLINE INTERNET ACCESS

The International Telecommunications Union is once again taking a close look at protecting radio communications from interference caused by Broadband over Powerline or BPL. Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham, in the UK, with more:

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Working Party 1A of the ITU-R is preparing a report on Power Line Telecommunications, examining the protection levels required by various radio services.

The US and Japan, in particular, seem to want very little protection for radio services, although Japanese radio astronomers and US broadcasters have opposing views.

The section of the report dealing with the Amateur Service has been updated by the International Amateur Radio Union, and the next meeting is in Seoul, South Korea between February 24th and March 4th.

I'm Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

The IARU will be represented at the Seoul meeting by one of their Technical Consultants. He is the Radio Society of Great Britain's Past President, Peter Chadwick, G3RZP. (GB2RS)

**

RESTRUCTURING: HAMS IN SWEDEN GET 6 METERS

6 meters now available in Sweden. This, with word that Swedish Radio Amateurs have been granted access to the 50 to 52 MHz band with a power

output of 200 Watts.

Previously access to 50 MHz in Sweden had been by special permit only. Although the power limit is currently lower on 6 meters than other bands the Swedish National Society website says that work is ongoing between the society and the nation's telecommunications regulators to get this upgraded to a full kilowatt out at a later date.

And some other good news for hams in Sweden. Effective April 1st they will gain access to 7.1 to 7.2 MHz with 1 kW out. (Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NEW ALLOCATIONS COMING TO NORWAY

Some new amateur radio allocations may soon be available in Norway. A report of the Norwegian amateur radio society the Norwegian Radio Relay League says that it was successful in persuading the nation's licensing authority to add new bands to the amateur radio band plan.

Included in the new offerings is a CW-only allocation of 490 to 510 kHz on a secondary basis with a maximum power of 100 Watts PEP. On the 160 meter band from 1.850 to 2.0 MHz, regulators indicate they intend to allow 10 Watts average power of instead of the current 10 Watts PEP.

The frequency segment from 5.260 to 5.410 MHz will be opened to all Norwegian radio amateurs on a secondary basis, with a maximum power of 100 Watts PEP.

The 12m band will be extended by 150 kHz and allocated from 24.740 to 24.990 MHz with a maximum power of 1000 watts.

Lastly, part of the European 70 MHz band will also be added to spectrum available to Norwegian hams. The Norwegian Radio Relay League says that the new amateur radio rules permitting access to these frequencies are expected to take effect sometime this spring. (DXNL)

**

RESTRUCTURING: WIA TAKES OVER VK HAM TESTING

The Wireless Institute of Australia has taken over ham radio testing and the issuing of licenses from that nation's telecommunications regulatory agency. Rebecca Bruce has the details:

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On January 28th the Australian Communications and Media Authority, or ACMA, signed an agreement with the Wireless Institute of Australia. It sets out the conditions under which the national ham radio society will manage amateur examinations, issue of certificates of proficiency and provide callsign recommendations for the next 5 years. It also has an option for the possibility of extending the arrangement to a full 10 years if both parties agree.

The agreement came into force on Monday, February 2nd. Among other things, it dictates that the ACMA will continue to issue callsigns until close of business on Friday, February 27th. After that date the Wireless Institute of Australia will become responsible for the management of all levels of amateur callsigns. This includes special event, repeater and beacon callsigns, as well as those issued to individuals.

If it all works as planned, this compact between the Australian Communications and Media Authority and the Wireless Institute of Australia should streamline the handling of all matters in that nations amateur radio licensing system.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rebecca Bruce, in Los Angeles.

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The Wireless Institute of Australia anticipates having a list of all callsigns available for selection on its website before March 2nd. This list will be accompanied by a news release setting out full details of the new callsign management and recommendation process. (WIA News)

**

RADIO LAW: ONTARIO CANADA PULLS CELL LAWS ON HOLD

The Government of Ontario, Canada has tabled legislation intended to improve road safety by banning the use of some kinds of electronic devices by drivers. While the target of Bill 118 was intended to be cellular communication devices, the draft bill was written so broadly that many Amateurs were concerned that their operation could be banned by the bill's provisions.

In preparation for a new draft of the measure, Radio Amateurs of Canada representatives will soon meet with Ontario transportation officials to make the case for protecting mobile Amateur Radio operation. This will be done in conjunction with the Canadian Association for Rallysport and its Executive Director, Alastair Robertson, VE3RAA.

Meantime, Radio Amateurs of Canada President Dave Goodwin, VO1AU, has written to the Ontario Transportation Minister specifically requesting that Amateur Radio be excluded from the scope of the Bill. This letter reminded the minister that similar legislation in Newfoundland, Labrador, Nova Scotia and Quebec explicitly or implicitly protects mobile Amateur Radio operation. (RAC)

**

RADIO LAW: HAWAII HAMS USE THE WWW TO ALERT ON PROPOSED MOBILE CELL BAN

Hams on Hawaii are using modern technology to speed the call to action. This, over a number of proposed measures to ban the use of hand-held cellular phones while driving in the island state.

As elsewhere, the concerns raised by the Hawaii ham radio community is that these proposed measures are overly broad and could be interpreted as also

banning ham radio mobile operations. To help spread word of these measures to Hawaii's radio amateurs, Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, has put together a special web page. It provides information about legislation in progress affecting mobile two-way radio operations in the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii.

Those in need of the information that AH6RH is providing can find his website at
http://ronhashiro.htohananet.com/am-radio/cellular-phone-ordinance.html
(KH6QX)

**

RADIO LAW: ARRL ISSUES MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO POLICY STATEMENT

Meantime, the American Radio Relay League has issued a policy statement regarding the rights of hams to operate mobile in the face of mounting anti-cellphone and anti-texting while mobile state laws. Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, is in the East Coast bureau and has the details:

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It's something we've been hearing more and more about in the past several months.

Nearly a dozen state legislatures are considering such measures.

And, the idea of banning cell phone use or texting while driving is gaining lots of support from police agencies, insurance companies and even auto clubs.

To ensure, Amateur Radio's voice is heard on the issue, the ARRL board adopted a policy encouraging those backing these bans to exclude mobile amateur radio operations. The message is clearly aimed at state legislators and community leaders.

The ARRL's policy statement focuses on the concept that cell phones are full duplex devices - meaning the user is focusing on listening and conversing directly.

Amateur radio communications, on the other hand, the policy statement notes, require more listening and less transmitting and each cannot occur simultaneously.

The ARRL is worried that regulating cell phones and text messaging while driving casts such a broad net that amateurs who provide public service could be blocked from lending a hand to their communities in times of need.

The ARRL is hoping hams will take a look at the policy. You can read more at the league's website:
www.arrl.org.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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The ARRL Policy Statement does recognize the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. It says that safety has to be a top concern at all times. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WD8AYE repeater serving Canton, Ohio.

**

RESCUE RADIO: VK HAMS PROVIDE EMCOMM FOR FIRES DOWN-UNDER

Ham radio is responding to wildfires down-under. Jim Linton, VK3PC, reports:

--

The Red Cross communications arm RECOM, run by radio amateurs, provided vital support as bushfires raged in the Gippsland region of eastern Victoria.

Two RECOM units were activated on Thursday 29 January to provide communications at the Mirboo North and Churchill relief centers as hundreds of people were forced by the fires to leave their homes or unable to reach them.

The Gippsland fires destroyed 30 homes plus numerous sheds and vehicles.

Almost 700 evacuees or displaced persons were registered by the RECOM units with that information being transmitted by digitally-encrypted HF radio back to the Red Cross State Inquiry Center in Melbourne.

The National Registration and Inquiry System operated by the Red Cross provides the relatives and friends of the evacuees a single contact point for information on their whereabouts.

The hams involved were Bruce, VK3BMK; Graeme, VK3BXG; Peter, VK3AUO; Donald, VK3BPD; John, VK3BQS; Warren, VK3XSW; Graham, VK3GBJ; and John, VK3ATQ.

This latest deployment came during a once-in-a-century record three day heat-wave with temperatures topping 43 degrees Celsius. 109 on the Fahrenheit sale.

RECOM was established around 1999 and provides communications support for the Victorian Red Cross emergency service but can be deployed to anywhere in Australia.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC

--

It's currently mid-Summer in the Southern Hemisphere and the middle of Australia's wildfire season. Some 30 homes have so far been destroyed by the blaze. (VK3PC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS ASSIST IN SEVERE WEATHER IN KENTUCKY

Meantime back in the United States, its ice and snow. That's what hams in Western Kentucky had to face as the phone lines sagged and cellphones stopped working. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

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According to the Lexington Herald Leader, ham radio operators volunteered to aid Red Cross shelters, emergency operations centers, and to just keep communications up and running. Some also drove the icy roads to connect family members with one another replacing cell phones and traditional land-line phones that went dead due to the foul weather.

In Henderson County, a ham radio operator reportedly spent four days at the local emergency operations center. He provided supplemental communication for police, fire and emergency medical personnel.

Elsewhere, sixteen members from the Kentucky Colonels Amateur Radio Club brought their equipment and relayed messages from the main shelter in Bowling Green. Club member Henry Cantrell, W4HTB, told the newspaper that others in the group fanned out to nearby cities including Brownsville, Smiths Grove and others.

Cantrell said that the amateur radio operators helped shelter occupants find and locate family members at other shelters as far west as Paducah. They also connected with state Homeland Security officials in Frankfort to relay the number and status of the various area shelters. But W4HTB said that the main priority was directing cots, generators and other supplies to where they were needed the most.

In central Kentucky, the Bluegrass Amateur Radio Society was on alert. Society member Wilson Wells, N4ZQT, traveled to Versailles to help at a Red Cross shelter that had been set up in a seniors center.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

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The bottom line is that the hams of Kentucky were ready to roll when the weather took the phone lines down and knocked cellular service out. (Lexingtom Herald On Line)

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HAM RADIO TESTING: NCVEC QPC SEEKS INPUT ON REVISED TECH EXAM

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators is now reviewing the Element 2 Technician Class

question pool. This, as part of a regular process in which each question pool is reviewed on a four-year rotation.

The next Technician Class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010. In preparation, the Question Pool Committee is seeking input from the amateur community concerning this revision. It is also accepting input in the form of new question topics, new questions and suggestions for changes or deletions.

If you have any comments or suggestions on the current Element 2 question pool, please contact the Question Pool Committee Chairman, Rol Anders, K3RA, via email to qpcinput (at) ncvec (dot) org; or on line at www.ncvec.org/feedback.php Guidelines for question formats are provided at that web address. The current Technician Examination Syllabus and Question Pool can be found elsewhere at the at www.ncvec.org website. (NCVEC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: GB50BH COMMEMORATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF BUDDY HOLLY

The 50th anniversary of the death of Rock and Roll legend Buddy Holly is being memorialized on the ham radio bands. This, with a commemorative operation by G4STH and G4YLO using the special commemorative call GB50BH.

The operation pays homage to the passing of Charles Hardin Holley. He was better known professionally as Buddy Holly and was an American singer-songwriter and a pioneer of rock and roll music.

Holly, along with fellow rock icons Ritchie Valens, and J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson were killed in the crash of a chartered plane jut after takeoff from Clear Lake, Iowa on February 2nd, 1959. In Rock and Roll music circles, that became known as "the day the music died."

Now, five decades later, GB50BH is on the air from on February 3rd from Sommerset, in the United Kingdom, and will remain in operation through March 3rd. QSL to G4STH either direct or via the bureau. (Southgate)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: HEIL SOUND TOP HOST NAB 2009 HAM RADIO RECEPTION IN LAS VEGAS

Bob Heil, K9EID, has asked that we pass along word that his company, Heil Sound Limited, will again be hosting the annual National Association of Broadcasters Amateur Radio Reception. Bob says that the gathering will take place at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center after closing of the exhibit hall on Wednesday, April 22nd. More information will be posted on Bob's company website at www.heilsound.com in the near future. The National Association of Broadcasters Show and Conference takes place April 18th to the 23rd at the Las Vegas Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. (K9EID)

**

BREAKING NEWS: US DTV TRANSITION WILL BE DELAYED TO JUNE

I'm Bill Pasternak,WA6ITF, back with some late breaking news.

The transition from analog to all-digital telecasting in the United States will most likely be delayed some four months. In a heated debate by legislators Wednesday, February 4th, the House of Representatives voted to push the cut-off date for analog TV from February 17th to June 12th.

The vote was 264 to 158, with more Republicans voting for the delay than there were Democrats opposing the Democratic party leadership to vote against it. The vote was a victory for the new Obama administration, which pushed for the date change. The bill allows households with expired coupons to reapply for them. The measure now goes to President Obama who has promised to sign it.

As previously reported, ham radio operators were among groups targeted by the FCC to assist in making the public aware of the digital conversion and providing assistance to those who needed help. Hams nationwide have responded. Now they will have four more months to assist in the digital outreach campaign. (Published news reports)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: BELLVILLE ISS CONTACT NOW ON YOUTUBE

Not very long ago we reported on an ARISS contact between the Ellis Elementary School in Belleville, Illinois, and Astronaut Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE, who was on board the International Space Station. Now, thanks to the KETC program Living St. Louis, you can get a chance to see this event for yourself on the World-Wide-Web.

The program segment is hosted by producer Ruth Ezell. She and her camera crew were there to watch and record as students in educator Jennifer May's third grade class had a chance to have their questions answered from on-orbit by KE5FYE, who happens to be a Belleville native.

With the technical support of members from the local amateur radio community, the session allowed the students to see how math and science have real-world applications. Now you can share the experience as well by taking your web browser to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2TuJyNXx0c&eurl=http://livingstlouis.wordpress.com/2009/01/22/living-st-louis-video-ham-radio/&feature=player_embedded

(K7JA)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: NASA'S LRO MADE READY FOR LAUNCH

NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, or LRO, has successfully completed thermal vacuum testing, which simulates the extreme hot, cold and airless conditions of space that the vehicle will experience after launch.

The orbiter was built at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. The now-completed thermal vacuum testing subjected it to the extreme temperature cycles of the lunar environment as engineers conducted simulated flight operations. Previously, the LRO had been put though spin and vibration tests. The orbiter was also subjected to acoustics testing where the bagged spacecraft was placed near wall-sized speakers that simulate the noise-induced vibrations of a launch.

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter will now be shipped to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida to be prepared for its April 24th scheduled launch aboard an Atlas V rocket. Accompanying the spacecraft will be the Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite. The latter will impact the moon's surface in a search for water-based ice. Both vehicles will radio their findings back to Earth. (NASA Goddard Release)

**

RADIOSPORTS: ARRL APPROVES LIMITED USE OF CW SKIMMER

A big change in the world of contesting. Following months of review, the ARRL has decided to allow the use of the controversial CW Skimmer program, but only for multi-ops and single operators using assistance in ARRL contests.

The rules change on multi-channel decoders like CW Skimmer was approved by the ARRL Program and Services Committee, which met just before the mid-January 2009 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors. In an interview with Radio-Sport dot net, ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Chairman Dick Green, WC1M, said that this emerging technology will be permitted in ARRL contests, but not in the Single Operator category.

This decision mirrors a similar one made last year by the CQ WW DX Contest. The ARRL decision means that all major contests have now dealt with the CW Skimmer issue. (W0WI via VHF Reflector)

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WORLDBEAT: KOREA UNVEILS ARDF COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Turning to news from around the world, word that Korea has issued a postage stamp commemorating the 2008 Amateur Radio Direction Finding World Championships. The championship competition was held in that nation last September and hosted by the Korean Amateur Radio League. More than 450 participants from 28 countries came to Korea to compete. In issuing the

new stamp a spokesman for the Korean postal service said that it is hoped that the World Direction Finding Championships held in his nation will provide momentum to stimulate more public interest and participation in amateur radio. (Korean Stamp Portal)

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DX OPPORTUNITY: MIDWAY ISLAND TO BE AVAILABLE TO HAMS IN OCTOBER

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering amateur radio operators a limited opportunity to operate from Midway Atoll. To avoid any conflicts with atoll wildlife, amateur radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, from October 5th to the 19th of 2009.

Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted. 120 volt mains power is available at the operation site.

Any modifications to the island power grid or infrastructure must be approved in advance by the Refuge Manager and be paid for entirely by the radio operators. All participants will be required to attend a Refuge orientation shortly after arrival, which is designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection, and overall enjoyment while visiting the Refuge and Monument.

This event will mark the first opportunity for amateur radio operators to broadcast from the atoll since 2002. More information is available by sending an e-mail to Matt_D_Brown (at) fws (dot) gov.

**

DX

In other DX news, word that 3B8FQ has his license in-hand and will be active from St. Brandon Island through Thursday, February 12th. His callsign is 3B7FQ and while this is primarily to maintain the meteorological station, he will be on to make contacts as time allows. Listen out for 3B7FQ on all bands from 80 through 10 meters on CW and SSB. QSL 3B7FQ and 3B8FQ via K5XK per instructions found on QRZ.com.

And M0VKY will be active portable EA8 from Lanzarote Island in the Canary Islands between March 31st and April 5th. His activity will be on 40, 20 and 15 meters using an FT-857D and some half wave dipoles. QSL M0VKY, direct or by the bureau.

OH2BAD has announced that he's spending his winter vacation on the warm Caribbean island of Aruba and plans to hit the airwaves as P40MH through February 17th. If you work him, QSLs also via bureau to his home call.

Also, F4DYW has been operating from Crozet Island, signing FT5WO. He was last heard on 14.222 MHz between 14:45 and 1640 U-T-C. Word is that he will be on Crozet until the end of November. QSL's go to F4DYW, direct or by the bureau, but don't expect a return card until after he gets back home.

Lastly, HA9RE, and a team of operators are now active from Wallis Island as FW5RE. They will be there through the end of February using CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 through 10 meters including 12, 17 and 30 meters. Their QSL manager is HA8IB.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: RCA BEGINS SCHOOL OUTREACH PROGRAM

And finally this week, word that the Radio Club of America has begun a new multi-faceted outreach program to reach youngsters and late teens to interest them in technology careers and in some cases also in amateur radio. Retired New York City educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP, is in charge of the program and tells us a bit what's being planned

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Perry: "A dear friend of mine who is a fellow RCA member named Richard Sommers, on the West coast is going to mostly in the inner-city schools of Los Angeles searching for at risk students who have some technical inclination but cannot afford after high school to pursue a trade or a vocation in anything technical as far as schooling goes.

"We are proposing giving these students -- once they are identified -- scholarship money which they will receive once they are enrolled or engaged in a technical or vocational trade school"

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As to recruiting new hams, that will first be explored in the North-East. There, WB2MGP will fall back on something she knows quite well. Teaching ham radio and putting ham gear in the classroom:

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Perry: "The other move is to encourage amateur radio in as many schools as I can get it into in my immediate area in the New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut area by going in and actually showing the track record of the successfully run ham radio programs that I already have lined up and in place. Also, by offering them equipment that is going to be donated by fellow RCA members."

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Perry says that this equipment will be checked out and put into first rate shape before its delivered to the schools to create ham radio stations where now there are none. The program will also train the classroom educators on how to use ham radio as a classroom teaching tool

You can hear more about this very interesting project being headed up by Carole Perry, WB2MGP, on this week's Rain Report. You can find it on-line at www.therainreport.com or by phone at area code 773-358-7845. The complete interview with Carole Perry is there right now.

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only
official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, at the South East Bureau in Birmingham, alabama saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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36. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1643 - February 6 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-06 18:04:43 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <ZS_il.1654$eK2.1566@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2246

The correct BELLVILLE ISS youtube link is
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2TuJyNXx0c

37. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 5 (Friday, February 6, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-06 22:32:59 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090206223224.C30EA30CB5@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2247
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 5
February 6, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL Executive Committee Issues Mobile Amateur Radio Operation
Policy Statement
* + ARRL Announces Second Homebrew Challenge
* + Look for the March Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
* + Save the Date: ARRL National Convention to be Held at 2009 Dayton
Hamvention
* + North Dakota to Offer State QSO Party in March
* + Awards Conferred at 2009 ARRL Board of Directors Annual Meeting
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ William E. Packard, NN9U, Wins January QST Cover Plaque Award
+ Antarctic Station QRV Until February 18
Swedish Amateurs Granted New Privileges

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ISSUES MOBILE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATION
POLICY STATEMENT

On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its
January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted a policy
statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses
the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances
regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging,
inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications
<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>
.
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In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related handheld or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

"At the start of each new session, you see a flurry of this type of proposal in state legislatures across the country," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. As of February 1, 2009, Henderson said that the ARRL is aware of proposals in 11 states: Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming, as well as several local city or town proposals.

"These proposals are usually intended to regulate cellular telephone and text messaging by drivers as a matter of safety but, when they are written in very broad terms, can include Amateur Radio mobile operations in the 'net' they cast," Henderson continued. "The Executive Committee's policy statement gives a good, concise background of the role the Amateur Service plays in public safety and service communications. It also highlights the differences between communications conducted by cellular telephone and those using Amateur Radio. Finally, the statement offers some suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes which would protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The ARRL recognizes that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents. The policy statement raises the fact that cell phones utilize full duplex communications -- where the user is talking and listening simultaneously. The Executive Committee statement says "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. "Safety has to be a top concern at all times," Henderson concluded.

==> ARRL ANNOUNCES SECOND HOMEBREW CHALLENGE

The first ARRL Homebrew Challenge, announced in the August 2006 issue of QST, offered a prize for the best 5 W, 40 meter CW and voice transceiver our readers could build. The only requirement was that the rig had to be built for less than $50 of new, readily available parts. In 2009, ARRL ups the ante in the Second Homebrew Challenge by upping the power limit to 50 W. All entries are due no later than February 28, 2010 <http://www.arrl.org/qst/hbc/>.

"Low power (QRP) operation is fun, but often a little more power is even more fun," said ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR. "For our new challenge, we are asking readers to design, or adapt a published design (with appropriate credit), and build a 50 W amplifier to follow a 5 W/40 meter transceiver. This could be used behind one of the radios from the original challenge, or from other QRP radios at similar power level." There will be two cash prizes for this challenge. In addition to the prizes, the winners will receive the usual QST page rate for published articles.

The amplifier must operate on 40 meters. It must operate as a linear amplifier capable of accepting a QRP input signal and putting out a minimum of 50 W PEP into a 50 ohm load. It must meet all FCC requirements for spurious emissions. The amplifier must include control circuitry to switch from transmit to receive through a single contact closure and provide a path from antenna to receiver during receive mode. Hallas suggested taking a look at the two part series by Rick Campbell, KK7B, "Designing and Building Transistor Linear Power Amplifiers," in the February and March 2009 issues of QST.

Hallas listed some basic requirements for the Homebrew Challenge:
* It must meet all requirements while operating from a 13.8 V dc power supply.
* It must put out 50 W PEP on 40 meters with a 5 W PEP input.
* It must be a linear amplifier with third order and higher intermodulation products must be below -28 dBc (28 dB below the carrier) as measured using the procedures described in the ARRL Lab product review Test Procedures Manual <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/prodrev/testproc.pdf>.
* It must be capable of key down operation at 40 W CW output for 5 minutes without more than a 5 percent reduction in output level.
* Single contact transmit/receive switching is required.
* Parts must be readily available either from identified national retailers or by mail order. No "flea market specials" allowed.
* The total cost of all mechanical and electrical parts required for duplication of the amplifier cannot exceed $125.
* All entries must be received at ARRL Headquarters no later than February 28, 2010.
* The amplifier that meets all the basic requirements at the lowest cost will receive a prize of $200.
* An additional prize of $300 will be awarded for an amplifier that meets all the basic requirements and, in the sole judgment of the reviewers, provides the most useful mix of the following additional attributes within the $125 cost limitation:
* * Full output with an input lower than 5 W, perhaps as low as 2 W, to allow operation with other popular radios.
* * Use of aluminum oxide or other types of power transistors rather than beryllium oxide.
* * Operation on additional bands besides 40 meters.
* * Operation in support of full break-in (QSK) mode.

Hallas noted that some RF power transistors, and even some conduction cooled vacuum tubes, are built on a beryllium oxide substrate or heat conduction base. "Beryllium oxide is inert and safe if properly handled," he said. "If crushed, drilled or filed, however, the resulting dust can be harmful if breathed. Many new power transistors use an aluminum oxide substrate that avoids this problem. It is recommended that aluminum oxide be used if possible. If you do choose to use beryllium based transistors for your amplifier, please treat them with the respect that they deserve, and dispose of them as hazardous material outside of normal household waste disposal channels if they fail or are no longer needed."

Each entrant must submit the fully operational amplifier, as well as a documentation package. This package should include a draft QST article with a discussion of the design considerations and tradeoffs and a description of the construction techniques. The article will also include test and alignment steps, operating instructions, along with a readable schematic with a list of all parts used, their source and price.

Those who do not have the capability to measure the desired and undesired output products accurately may submit amplifiers early for an unofficial pre-test in the ARRL Lab. Hallas advised entrants allow two weeks (from ARRL's receipt of the package) to be notified of the results.

The station will first be evaluated in comparison to the basic requirements by the ARRL Laboratory. Entries determined by the Lab to be acceptable on the basis of FCC spectral purity and output requirements will be further evaluated by the QST Technical Editorial Staff.

While the basic rules and evaluation criteria were provided in the original announcement, Hallas said that there are always questions on interpretation. "We have thus again provided a Web resource <http://www.arrl.org/qst/hbc/> to provide the questions and answers (FAQs) to all interested participants. Answers provided should be considered a part of the rules and are binding on all entrants."

==> LOOK FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The March issue of QST, our annual antenna issue, is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Jim Steible, K4DLI, and Pete Gaddle, W6XX, designers of the 160 meter beam used on the 3Y0X DXpedition to Peter I, relate how the extreme polar environment provided extreme antenna performance. If you have a small area -- and a small budget -- be sure to check out the article by Leo Shoemaker, K4KIO, detailing his five band G3TXQ broadband hexagonal beam antenna. David Hannon, KE7TTT, recommends a vertical antenna that requires no permanent mounting that is both easy and efficient.

If you've never participated in a contest but wondered what all the fuss was about, or if you are the type to plan family vacations around the contest calendar, you won't want to miss "This Month in Contesting" by ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. This month, Sean features a primer on the ARRL International DX Phone Contest; this contest runs from 0000 UTC March 7-2400 UTC March 8. The results of the 2008 ARRL September VHF QSO Party, the 2008 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest and the 2008 IARU HF World Championship are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in the Contest Corral.

ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, compares five analog HF/VHF wattmeters in the March issue. According to the ARRL Lab test results, "These reasonably priced HF/VHF wattmeters offer power and SWR measurements at several power levels. Each model offers something different, but one is sure to be a match for your station requirements." Also in the March issue, ARRL Technical Advisor Bruce Prior, N7RR, takes a look at six high end dual-lever keyer paddles: "Finely crafted from top quality materials, these high end-dual-lever keyer paddles are designed for the discerning CW operator. Some are better suited to heavy fisted operators, while others reward a light touch."

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and expect in the March QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Hamspeak and more. This month also features Technical Correspondence, the Emergency Communications Course Honor Roll and the ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Honor Roll. Look for your March issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> SAVE THE DATE: ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT 2009 DAYTON HAMVENTION

The ARRL National Convention will be held at the Dayton Hamvention May 15-17 at Hara Arena <http://www.hamvention.org/>. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, the ARRL National Convention will be filled with activities and exhibits. "Our host organization, the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, has three big days planned, chock-full of every bit of Amateur Radio you can think of," Inderbitzen said. "ARRL volunteers from across its 15 National Divisions will be present, alongside thousands of out-of-towners who will make Dayton their home-away-from-home during the event. The centerpiece of ARRL's convention planning is ARRL EXPO -- a huge showcase of ARRL program representatives and activities. Many new exhibits are being planned, with special focus on operating and project-building." A preview of what is planned for ARRL EXPO can be found at the ARRL EXPO Web site <http://www.arrl.org/expo>.

The ARRL EXPO, located in the large exhibit area in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths), will showcase exhibits and activities to enhance the ham radio experience. Open to both ARRL members and

nonmembers, ARRL EXPO is packed with official ARRL program representatives, activities and forums. Visit the ARRL bookstore for popular publications and products, join the ARRL or renew your membership, and pick up official ARRL merchandise. All who join the ARRL or renew their membership at the Dayton Hamvention will receive a free gift.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check DX cards and applications. All cards will be eligible for checking -- including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160 meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards (more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available). Check out the ARRL Awards Web site for the latest program information and current forms <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>.

Inderbitzen said that a special event operating station is planned, so be sure to have a copy of your license on hand -- get in the hot seat of W1AW/8 and get on the air! You can also meet W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, part of the team that supports the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.

The ARRL Youth Lounge in the ARRL EXPO is the place to meet and socialize with other young hams. Whether you're 1 or 21, the Youth Lounge is sure to offer something that young hams will enjoy. Come to chat with other hams, listen to music, grab a snack or participate in one of the many activities, such as fox-hunts, scavenger hunts, Morse code fun, a QSL card designing contest, crafts, prizes and more. Whether or not you're licensed, you are welcome to come by and join the fun! If you are looking for other young people at Hamvention, check out the youth calling frequencies at 145.540 MHz (107.2 Hz CTCSS) primary and 146.430 (233.6 Hz CTCSS) secondary.

If you enjoy waxing-nostalgic over the gear of yesteryear, then drop by the exhibit area to meet vintage equipment photographer Joe Veras, K9OCO. He will be autographing of his new book, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228>, recently published by ARRL. There are some other "vintage" surprises planned, as well, Inderbitzen said.

"If you can't make it to Dayton," Inderbitzen said, "you can still catch all the latest news on the Convention's Weblog <http://www.arrl.org/blog>. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will once again be blogging about Hamvention. Proving you can indeed go home again, Steve will regale readers with the adventures of staying with his mother at his childhood home in Dayton." For the past few years, thousands of readers have been entertained as Steve has related stories about new gear making its debut at Hamvention, the weather in Dayton and the overall feel of the event -- as well as the ever-popular antics at "Casa de Mi Madre."

The ARRL will introduce a new blog at this year's National Convention: ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, will blog from a young ham's

perspective. MacLachlan, who will be assisting former Youth Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, and her father Scott, KF4PWI, in the ARRL Youth Lounge, will explore the Hamvention exhibits, forums and events, giving his first-time take on the Hamvention experience. "Duncan's youth perspective is a welcome addition to the ARRL National Convention team," Inderbitzen said. "We hope you'll explore all of Dayton's nooks and crannies through his reporting."

ARRL staff are getting ready for all the excitement that a National Convention brings. Teaming up with the Dayton Hamvention is sure to bring everything to a fever pitch, so why not make plans to join in on the fun? Travel and lodging information is available on the Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/travel.php>.

==> NORTH DAKOTA TO OFFER STATE QSO PARTY IN MARCH

Stations working on their Triple Play Award <http://www.arrl.org/awards/> or Year of the State QSO Party Award <http://www.arrl.org/awards/ysqso/> will want to be on the air on Saturday, March 21 as North Dakota -- always a rare state -- will hold their first QSO Party in 14 years.

"The North Dakota QSO Party (NDQP) is certain to put North Dakota on the map -- and hopefully off the Needed List of many a deserving amateur," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. The contest is sponsored by the North Dakota Radio Association (NDRA) with help from several other North Dakota clubs.

Newly appointed North Dakota Section Manager Lynn Nelson, W0CQ, told Kutzko that interest has been high for starting the event up again. "I had many hams asking me to kick off a State QSO Party," Nelson said. "We are encouraging North Dakota stations to work 20 meters in the afternoon hours. This will help to tackle the demand of the state -- and its many rare counties -- for several Amateur Radio awards, including the ARRL's Triple Play and Year of the State QSO Party."

The North Dakota QSO Party runs from 1700 UTC Saturday, March 21-0100 UTC Sunday, March 22. All bands from 160-2 meters (except 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters) are acceptable. Complete rules and forms can be found on the NDRA Web site <http://k0ln.com/>. Don't miss your chance to work one of the rarest states in the country -- get in on the fun of the North Dakota QSO Party!

==> AWARDS CONFERRED AT 2009 ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING

At the 2009 Annual Meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to convey two awards for 2008: The Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award and the ARRL Humanitarian Award.

* The Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award

Ted Randall, WB8PUM, was named the recipient of the Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award. Every week, Randall hosts the QSO Radio Show, featuring guests who have ties to the amateur community, such as country

music artist Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG, Amateur Radio licensing instructor Gordon West, WB6NOA, and Monitoring Times publisher Bob Grove <http://www.tedrandall.com/>.

This annual award honors a professional journalist whose outstanding coverage in TV, radio, print or multimedia best reflects the enjoyment, importance and public service value of Amateur Radio. The award was created as a tribute to the late CBS News President Bill Leonard, W2SKE. Leonard was an avid Amateur Radio operator, most active on the air during the 1960s and 1970s. As the recipient of the Bill Leonard Award, Randall will receive a plaque and a cash prize of $500.

"I want to thank you all for this award, on behalf of the radio show, more than for myself," Randall said. "I believe the award will add credibility to the show and will help us continue to get to our goals. This is just one of the many reasons why doing the QSO Radio Show is so important to me. The folks who 'are' Amateur Radio and the ARRL have stories to tell that the rest of the world needs to hear. Little on radio today is authentic and compelling. The QSO Radio Show brings all these special people into the homes and listening posts of people in every continent. We are taking a story of goodwill and friendship, the story of Amateur Radio, 'up close and personal' to millions of listeners around the world. We are also collecting a fraternity of folks together, around what comes natural to us, the radio. We saw this magic take place in 2008 on Field Day, with Field Day locations calling in from everywhere, including Iraq. Magicians appear to perform magic on stage, but what these folks did is real magic!"

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said Randall was cited for his ongoing coverage of Amateur Radio through his profiling of key figures and personalities as host of the QSO Radio Show: "Each week, Ted broadcasts interesting information, interviews and news about the Amateur Radio world to the world. The power of his shortwave broadcast medium was pleasantly made very real to me when, following an interview, I was flooded with e-mails asking for more information. Not only were they coming from the USA, but just as many came from foreign countries such as China, Canada and Japan. Ted is a tireless promoter of the Amateur Radio Service -- not just on the air, but to every broadcast engineer and celebrity he meets."

* The ARRL Humanitarian Award

The Board voted to confer the 2008 ARRL Humanitarian Award to the amateurs of the Sichuan Radio Sports Association, the Chinese Radio Sports Association (CRSA)<http://www.crsa.org.cn/english.php> and the many Amateur Radio operators in China who assisted with communications support during the aftermath of the May 2008 earthquake in that country.

In the wake of the earthquake, the CRSA called on its members to "take actions to ensure their Amateur Radio stations to operate properly, and to the extent possible stand by on often used short-wave frequencies. If any radio signal is heard from the disaster area, please do your best to

understand what is most needed by people in that area and report it to the local government authority. If people in the surrounding areas need to pass messages to their loved ones over the radio, please help them to get in touch and get the messages across as soon as possible. Amateur Radio stations in the disaster area and surrounding areas if in working condition should be used unconditionally to assist the local earthquake disaster relief authorities, and subject to permission by the said authorities, to provide communications services to them. For emergency communications purposes, Amateur Radio stations may also be used to pass messages for local residents on a temporary basis until local telecommunications services resume. Amateur Radio stations of all regions should give way to and stand by for emergency communications."

According to the CRSA -- the Chinese IARU Member-Society -- Chinese government officials and the news media recognized that when normal communications failed after the earthquake, Amateur Radio operators stepped in to provide vital links. CRSA acknowledged that the main organizer of local Amateur Radio traffic, Luo Minglin, BY8AA, "continuously coordinated VHF/UHF communications for a 100 km radius from Chengdu, the capital of southwest China's province of Sichuan. More repeaters were set up in both Beichuan and Mianyang -- among the worst hit areas outside the epicenter -- to form an effective Amateur Radio communication network."

Zhang Zhen, BG8DOU, said that right after the earthquake, "Two ham radio operators drove to the center of the earthquake area and had a repeater set up by the morning of May 13. This repeater enabled the transmission of rescue instructions and status reports, and was a main communication channel for public use. The repeater carried communications for the Mayor of Mianzhu City who gave orders to those on the front line rescue and recovery activity."

On May 12 at 1858 UTC, Liu Hu, BG8AAS, of Chengdu, reported that the local UHF repeater in that town "keeps busy running after the quake. It helps to direct social vehicles to transport the wounded from Dujiangyan, Beichuan and other regions. Another UHF repeater also started working in Mianyan, supported by generators, but they are going to face a shortage of gas."

According to ARRL Programs and Services Committee Chairman Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, the PSC Committee itself put forward the nomination. "We received three nominations from the public for other groups or individuals," Frahm said, "but we as a committee felt the Chinese amateurs and their organizations exemplified the highest level of dedication to public service."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The slant Sun of February" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We still have had no hint of sunspots or sunspots to come, though there was some geomagnetic activity on February 4 from a possible coronal mass ejection, raising the planetary A index to 16 that day. Sunspot numbers

for January 29-February 4 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.3, 69.1, 69.4, 69.5, 69.1, 69.3 and 69.5 with a mean of 69.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 7, 3, 2, 4 and 16 with a mean of 5.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 3, 4, 1, 0, 2 and 10 with a mean of 3.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Cullen Bryant's "A Winter Piece" <http://poetry.poetryx.com/poems/11716/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the School Club Roundup is February 9-13. The Minnesota QSO Party and the FYBO Winter QRP Field Day are on February 7. On February 7-8, look for the Vermont QSO Party, the 10-10 Winter Phone QSO Party, the Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities, the British Columbia QSO Challenge, the New Mexico QSO Party and the FMRE International RTTY Contest. The Delaware QSO Party is February 7-9, and the North American Sprint (CW) and the FM Simplex Contest are February 8. Next week, the Valentine's Day Sprint and the YL-OM Contest are February 13-14. The Asia Pacific Sprint and the FISTS CW Winter Sprint are both February 14. On February 14-15, look for the CQWW WPX Contest, (RTTY), the Northern New York QSO Party, the EU EME Contest, the New Hampshire QSO Party, the Dutch PACC Contest, the Louisiana QSO Party, the OMISS QSO Party and the RSGB 160 Meter Contest. The North American Sprint is February 15 and the Classic Exchange is February 15-16. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, February 22, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Technician License Course; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback.

Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* William E. Packard, NN9U, Wins January QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for January is William E. Packard, NN9U, for his article "Morse Code: Efficient or Over the Hill?" Congratulations, William! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the February issue by Saturday, February 28.

* Antarctic Station QRV Until February 18: KC4USV, the Amateur Radio station at McMurdo Station <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMurdo_Station> on Ross Island in Antarctica is now on the air. According to Bill Erhardt, K7MT, who is stationed at McMurdo, the station boasts a new transceiver, amplifier and antenna. "We set up the equipment on January 19, tested it and went on the air," Erhardt said. "The station will be in operation on Sundays on 14.243 MHz, starting at 0001 UTC. We had a nice pile up Sunday, February 1 with US hams on the East Coast and in the Midwest." Erhardt leaves McMurdo on February 18 and is unsure if the station will be on the air over the Antarctic winter.

* Swedish Amateurs Granted New Privileges: On January 29, the Swedish Post and Telecom Agency (PTS) announced that Amateur Radio operators in that country will now have access to 50-52 MHz (6 meters) with a power output limit of 200 W <http://www.pts.se/sv/Radio/Amatorradio/>. Before the change, Swedish amateurs were allowed on the band only with a special license at an additional cost. The Foreningen Sveriges Sandareamatorer (SSA), Sweden's IARU Member-Society, also announced that as of April 1, Swedish amateurs will gain access to 7.0-7.2 MHz (40 meters), bringing Sweden into line with the WRC-03 decision to shift broadcasting stations in Regions 1 and 3 out of the 7100-7200 kHz band and to reallocate the band exclusively to the Amateur Service in those two regions as of March 29 <http://www.iaru.org/rel030703.html>. Each country in Regions 1 and 3 is permitted to determine their own timeline for the amateur allocation. While the band has been vacated by commercial broadcasters, no country is required to give amateurs privileges on those frequencies.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
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k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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38. The ARRL Letter, Vol 29, No 6 (Friday, February 13, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-13 20:25:00 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090213201505.7CBFA31F21@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2248
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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 6
February 13, 2009
***************

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Special Call Sign

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> OKLAHOMA HAMS WARN OF ONCOMING TORNADOES

A rare winter tornado struck Oklahoma around dinner time on Tuesday,
February 10. According to various news reports, Oklahoma officials
credited Amateur Radio operators with spotting the tornadoes and
relaying the information to the National Weather Service.

ARRL Oklahoma Section Emergency Coordinator Charles Goodson, KC5UEG,
told the ARRL that the Southern Oklahoma ARES group (SOARES)
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<http://www.soaresss.org/> and other Amateur Radio operators from the Ardmore area served as SKYWARN storm spotters. "After the tornado passed Lone Grove and Ardmore, several hams went back to the Lone Grove area," Goodson said. "One ham went to the Red Cross building and set up a communication command post from the Red Cross radio room. It was amateur operators who had the first visual contact with the tornadoes. They started reporting the tornado to Neil Mayo, KC5AMX, the Emergency Coordinator for Murray County and our Net control for severe weather events; he in turn reports to the National Weather Service in Norman via Amateur Radio."

The town of Lone Grove, population 4600 and located about 100 miles south of Oklahoma City, bore the brunt of the storm, with the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management (ODEM) reporting eight deaths and more than 100 homes destroyed. Two other tornadoes hit the Oklahoma City metro area and the north-central Oklahoma region late Tuesday. No serious injuries were reported in the Oklahoma City storm, but at least six homes were destroyed and businesses were damaged there, ODEM officials said.

ARRL Oklahoma Section Public Information Coordinator Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW, told the ARRL that his Ardmore home survived the tornado, but they are without power, water and other services. Other homes in his neighborhood were completely destroyed. Oklahoma Gas and Electric reported about 6000 customers are currently without power, with 3461 in Lone Grove.

Well-known contester Tim Duffy, K3LR, told the ARRL that he lost 40 percent of his home as a tornado blew through his town of Edmond, a suburb of Oklahoma City: "We lost all the doors and windows in the house, all the power, just everything. The damage is amazing. The cell phone system is still 'on tilt' with emergency services taking most of the channels. We're making big progress on getting things sorted out here. We will rebuild and make it better than it was before. With the house in complete disrepair, we'll be staying in a hotel for a while."

Duffy said that National Weather Service officials told him that the wind speed at his home was more than 150 MPH. While the family dog, a golden retriever, made it through the storm okay, Duffy said their pet cat is still missing. According to emergency management officials in Edmond, six homes were destroyed in the storm.

This storm took many by surprise because even in tornado-prone Oklahoma, February twisters are rare. According to the NWS, since 1950, only 44 twisters have touched down in the state during the month of February. The Lone Grove tornado was the third to cause multiple fatalities in the state since March 2007, when a Panhandle couple became the state's first tornado deaths in almost six years.

==> NCVEC QUESTION POOL COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK ON 2010 TECHNICIAN POOL REVISIONS

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators' (NCVEC) <http://www.ncvec.org> Question Pool Committee (QPC) <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=333> is currently reviewing the Technician class (Element 2) question pool. According to QPC Chairman Rol Anders, K3RA, the review is part of a regular process: "Each question pool is reviewed on a four year rotation. The next Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010."

According to QPC Member and ARRL Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O, the reason the QPC reviews the three question pools every four years is to ensure that the questions are asking for information relevant to that particular license class. "In the case of the Technician pool, the question set should provide for the new Technician licensee to be able to establish his or her station and operate it legally, courteously and safely. The Technician question pool and exam are intended to be the beginning of the journey into the Amateur Radio Service. It prepares the person for the enjoyment of operating, and that of preparing to learn electronics, the cornerstone of the education needed to obtain the further enjoyment that can come with the higher license classes."

Green said that the QPC must rely on members of the Amateur Radio community to suggest questions and answers in a responsible manner to preserve a high level of legitimacy for our radio service, so the NCVEC QPC is seeking input from the amateur community concerning the revision. They are accepting input for new question topics and new questions, as well as suggestions for changes or deletions.

Anders said that amateurs may submit questions for the QPC via the NCVEC Web site <http://www.ncvec.org/feedback.php>. If you choose to submit a question for the QPC's consideration, please be sure to observe the following procedure:

* Questions must have no more than 210 characters, including spaces, or a maximum of three 70 character lines.
* Answers must be no more than 140 characters, including spaces, or two 70 character lines in length.
* Each question must be accompanied by four possible answers. The answers may be in any order, but the correct answer must be indicated.
* Each question must be accompanied by a resource or Part 97 rule to support the correct answer or explanation of the correct answer.

Green said that the most difficult part of writing the questions and answers is creating the incorrect answers. "We try to stay away from 'All of these answers are correct' and 'None of these answers are correct' for some obvious reasons," he said. "It is a more difficult task to find three incorrect answers that are plausible, but are absolutely incorrect!"

The current Technician question pool <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=349>, effective July 1, 2006, will expire on June 30, 2010. The General class question pool <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=350> is effective July 1, 2007 and is

valid through June 30, 2011. The Amateur Extra class pool <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=351> became effective July 1, 2008 and is valid until June 30, 2012. If you have any comments or suggestions on the current Element 2 question pool, please contact Anders via e-mail <mailto:qpcinput@ncvec.org>.

==> GET READY FOR THE 2009 ARRL INTERNATIONAL CW DX CONTEST

The weekend of February 21-22 will be a busy one for CW operators as the 2009 ARRL International CW DX Contest takes center stage <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>. First started in 1929 as the ARRL International Relay Party, the ARRL DX CW Contest is the longest running contest in Amateur Radio. Stations from all around the world -- from Australia to Zimbabwe -- should be active for this great event that takes place on 160-10 meters (no contest QSOs are permitted on 12, 17, 30 or 60 meters).

Stations in the US and Canada work only DX stations (Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX for this contest), and DX stations only work the US and Canada. DX stations will be trying to make as many QSOs with all US states and Canadian provinces as they can. The contest exchange is simple -- US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and the amount of power with which they are transmitting.

"If you've never operated a CW contest, now is the time to start," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "You can work a lot of DX with just 100 W and a simple dipole or vertical antenna. If your CW is a little rusty, this event is a great way to get your CW skills back up to snuff and get some new DX countries into your bag. If you live in one of the rarer states, such as Delaware, North Dakota, West Virginia or Wyoming, DX stations from all around the world will be looking for you. This is your opportunity to 'be the rare one!'"

After the contest is over and you've had your fill of DX, Kutzko advises that you make sure to submit your QSOs to Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>: "You can get a lot of your DX QSOs confirmed with little effort, and the instant gratification of having those QSOs count toward your DXCC totals just can't be beat."

The ARRL International CW DX Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, February 21 through 2359 UTC Sunday, February 22, 2009. Complete rules and forms can be found on the ARRL Contest Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms>. Electronic logs should be e-mailed <mailto:DXCW@arrl.org>; paper logs can be sent to ARRL DX CW Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Logs sent via postal mail must be postmarked no later than 2359 UTC Monday, March 23, 2009.

==> IARU MEMBER-SOCIETIES RATIFY NEW OFFICERS, VOTE TO ADMIT NEW MEMBERS

On February 10, International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, counted ballots submitted by IARU Member-Societies. Proposals submitted to the Member-Societies in September 2008 (IARU

Calendar 187) <http://www.iaru.org/cal187.pdf> included the election of a new IARU President and Vice President, and admission of two new Amateur Radio societies to the IARU. Per the IARU Constitution <http://www.iaru.org/iarucnst.html>, each Member-Society must submit its vote in writing; late votes will not be counted. According to Sumner, 73 Member-Societies cast votes or abstentions on the proposals; of these votes, 57 affirmative votes are required for the proposal to pass.

Proposal Number 241

Proposal Number 241 concerned the ratification of the nomination of Timothy S. Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, to serve as President of the IARU for a 5 year term to begin May 9, 2009: Ellam was declared elected, with 72 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

Upon his election as the next IARU President, Ellam said he was "very honoured to have been elected as President of IARU and [I] look forward to working with all three Regions and the Member-Societies during my term in office. We no doubt will face many issues in the run up to the 2011 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11), but I look forward to working as a team to meet the challenges ahead. I would like to thank Larry Price, W4RA, for his sterling work with IARU during his term as President. IARU is in a very strong position today as a result of Larry's leadership. His support and friendship to me has also been very helpful in fulfilling my former duties as Vice President."

Ellam was a delegate to the 1998 IARU Region 2 Conference and was elected to the Region 2 Executive Committee in 2001, stepping down upon his election to IARU Vice President in 2004. He also served as an IARU Expert Consultant from 2000 until his election as Vice President. First licensed in 1977 as VE6CJR at the age of 16, Ellam credits a visit to the ITU in 1979 and the opportunity to operate 4U1ITU during his student years with contributing to his interest in the organizational side of Amateur Radio. He held executive positions in the Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) and one of its predecessor organizations, the Canadian Radio Relay League (CRRL), starting in 1990. Ellam's extensive travel as IARU Vice President has included a particular emphasis on the ITU Development Sector. He is active on the air from his home in Calgary.

Professionally, Ellam is a Barrister and Solicitor with the law firm of McCarthy Tetrault LLP. He is a partner in the firm's Calgary, Alberta, and London, UK, offices. Born in England, Ellam emigrated to Canada in 1972 and holds both Canadian and British/EU citizenship. He holds a BA in political science and economics from the University of Calgary and an LLB from the University of Alberta. He is a member of the Law Societies of Alberta and England & Wales, as well as of the International Bar Association. In 2005, Ellam was made a Fellow in International Legal Practice - College of Law of England and Wales, the first Canadian lawyer to be awarded the designation. He is also qualified in the UK as a solicitor/advocate and was recently awarded higher rights qualifications (the right to appear in all courts) in that jurisdiction. His extensive legal experience includes intellectual property and

corporate litigation, arbitrations involving communications, technology and energy matters, and utility regulations.

Proposal Number 242

Proposal Number 242 concerned the ratification of the nomination of Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, to serve as Vice President of the IARU for a 5 year term beginning on May 9, 2009. Garpestad was declared elected, receiving 73 votes.

"Congratulations to Ole Garpestad for his election as Vice President," Ellam said. "I am very pleased to have Ole as part of the officer team and know he will do an excellent job in his new position."

Garpestad joined the Norsk Radio Relae Liga (NRRL) -- Norway's IARU Member-Society -- in 1972, one year before he was licensed as LA2RR. His service as an NRRL volunteer includes service as a member of the NRRL Board of Directors from 1981-1992. While on the NRRL Board, Garpestad served as Secretary, ARDF Manager, IARU Liaison Officer. He also served as Chairman of the Second ARDF World Championship's Organizing Committee and as a member of the IARU Region 1 Conference's Organizing Committee for that meeting in Lillehammer in 1999. Garpestad topped off his service to the NRRL Board of Directors when he served as NRRL President from 2000-2002.

In 1999, Garpestad was elected to the IARU Region 1 Executive Committee, and was elected Chairman in 2002. He has represented Region 1 on the IARU's Administrative Council since 2001 and has attended IARU conferences in Regions 2 and 3. He has participated in CEPT preparations for WRC-03 and WRC-07, attending both conferences as a Norwegian delegate representing Amateur Radio interests.

Garpestad is a telecom and radio engineer working with development, system design and program management of tactical communications systems for Thales Norway AS (formerly Alcatel). He holds an MSc in electronic engineering and radio technology from the Technical University of Norway in Trondheim.

Proposal Number 243

Proposal Number 243 concerned the admission of Emirates Amateur Radio Society (EARS)<http://www.a62er.com/> as an IARU Member-Society. The proposal received 72 votes in favor and 1 abstention. Based in Sharjah, EARS was formally authorized by the Ministry of Social Affairs of the United Arab Emirates on February 5, 2008. There are 72 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the UAE; 28 are members of EARS. His Highness Abdulla Faisal Al Qassimi, A61AQ, is EARS President. Yousuf Ahmed Rafee, A61Y, is Vice President. Mohammad Hamza Darwish, A61M, serves as EARS General Secretary and IARU Liaison, and Qabila Shatter Al Bedawi, A61YL, is Treasurer.

Proposal Number 244

Proposal Number 244 concerned the admission of Kazakhstan Federation of Radiosports and Radioamateur (KFRR) <http://www.cqun.kz/?lang=en>. The proposal received 73 votes in favor. According to the IARU, KFRR registered with the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan and holds a general license from that country's Sports Committee, Ministry of Tourism and Sport. On May 17, 2008, KFFR held its first conference. The Chairman of the KFFR is Seitkul Assaubay, UN7BM; KFFR Vice Chairman is Igor Marchenko, UN7BF. Of the 617 licensed amateurs in Kazakhstan, 452 are KFFR members.

With the addition of the Emirates Amateur Radio Society and the Kazakhstan Federation of Radiosports and Radioamateur, there are now 162 IARU Member-Societies.

==> JUDGE RULES IN FAVOR OF AMATEUR IN PALMDALE ANTENNA SUPPORT STRUCTURE CASE

On Friday, February 6, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge David Yaffe issued a ruling in favor of Alec Zubarau, WB6X, of Palmdale, California, in Zubarau's case against the City of Palmdale <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/19/10512/?nc=1>. Last year, after Zubarau received a valid building permit from the City to erect an antenna support structure, the City of Palmdale revoked Zubarau's building permit after he had erected the tower. According to Zubarau's attorney, Len Shaffer, WA6QHD, the Court's ruling invalidates the actions of the City in revoking Zubarau's permit and requires the City to allow him to replace the tower.

"Zubarau's case has drawn nationwide attention and financial support from the ARRL, Amateur Radio clubs and individual Amateur Radio operators from around the country," said ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI. "Although this ruling does not directly address the City's proposed zoning ordinance amendment, based on the Court's language, it should provide considerable support for those hams attempting to negotiate a more reasonable provision allowing antenna support structures in the Palmdale City Code."

According to Woll, the Court also found that "unsubstantiated complaints by neighbors and anecdotal reports of transmissions interfering with other electrical equipment or posing health and safety concerns" did not constitute substantial evidence. Yaffe's ruling stated that Palmdale's ordinance requiring that amateur antennas be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood with respect to visual and other impacts is void, since it may not constitute the minimum practicable regulation as required under the California state statute <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/03-04/bill/asm/ab_1201-1250/ab_1228_bill_20030714_chaptered.html>. The judge further found that the City's decision to eliminate the tower violates the express requirements of California's PRB-1 equivalent statute that was enacted in 2003, but had yet to be used in a court case.

"While falling just short of invalidating Palmdale's current antenna ordinance," Woll said, "this language ought to put a damper on the

City's Draconian proposed zoning ordinance amendment and its extreme limitations on Amateur Radio antennas. One hopes that the City of Palmdale will think twice in the future about using tactics -- such as the threat of large fines -- to force compliance with an order based on unsubstantiated findings."

Shaffer told ARRL that the text of the Yaffe's ruling will be released after the service of notice on the City and expiration of the appeal period. He, Zubarau and Woll thanked the ARRL and the Amateur Radio community for what he called "the tremendous showing of support during this lengthy battle."

==> IEEE TO FORM BALLOTING GROUP ON BPL EMC STANDARD

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) <http://www.ieee.org/> has been developing standards <http://www.ieee.org/organizations/pubs/newsletters/emcs/spring08/standards.pdf> for Broadband over Power Line (BPL) use and deployment. According to ARRL Lab Manager and IEEE member, there are three IEEE standards in progress at this time. The first, P1675 <http://standards.ieee.org/board/nes/projects/1675.pdf>, covers installation and safety practices and should be published soon. The second, P1901 <http://standards.ieee.org/board/nes/projects/1901.pdf>, is focused mostly on BPL protocols and interoperability between various BPL systems. ARRL has no direct interest in either of these standards. The third standard -- P1775 <http://standards.ieee.org/board/nes/projects/1775.pdf> -- covers the electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) aspects of BPL emissions testing and the immunity of BPL systems. ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, as a member of the IEEE's P1775 BPL EMC Standards Working Group, has participated in the development of this standard from the very first meeting held in Denver, Colorado in 2004.

"The IEEE Working Group developing the standard is heavily dominated by the BPL industry and its electric-utility and EMC testing partners," Hare noted. "The ARRL was the only radiocommunications stakeholder that regularly attended meetings. Although I did make a number of contributions to the standard that were included, most of the major points I made about what was needed in an EMC standard to achieve compatibility with licensed radio services were voted down by the Working Group. The end result does not offer any real protection to Amateur Radio, despite progress made in the industry in that direction elsewhere."

Hare said that the major problem with the emissions testing part of this standard is that it offers little more than a parroting of the FCC rules on how to make measurements: "The test methods in this standard are overly complex and incomplete at the same time. By strongly parroting the FCC rules, the standard is promoting regulations that do not serve well to provide good test methods that enable BPL while protecting licensed services." Hare said that the risk to having an international industry standard that relies heavily on FCC regulations will increase

the likelihood that these regulations will be adopted by other countries. Hare has prepared a report <http://p1k.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/P1775Issues.htm> that outlines other problems he sees in the present draft of the standard.

The IEEE has announced that the P1775 standard is ready for ballot. Hare explained that the balloting process is not only a vote, but it is part of the process to develop standards. "Stakeholders that cannot attend the meetings that develop these standards can join the balloting pool," Hare said. "The IEEE requires that 75 percent of the balloting pool vote to approve the standard. Even if it passes, the IEEE requires that an attempt be made to resolve all negative ballots. The ballot is not as much a vote as it is an important part of ensuring that all interests are represented in an IEEE standard."

ARRL encourages those with a radio interest to join the IEEE balloting pool <http://p1k.arrl.org/~ehare/bpl/balloting_pool.htm> prior to February 22, 2009. Many amateurs are IEEE members; if they are also members of the IEEE Standards Association, they are able to ballot on IEEE standards at no cost. Hare reiterated that ARRL is not opposed to the development of BPL standards, but we realize that the best standards include the interests of all stakeholders. "There are a lot of good parts of this standard," Hare explained, "but it is lacking in areas that would make it a useful tool with good test methods and practices that offer significant protection to licensed radio services. Joining the balloting pool is the best way that amateurs can help develop a more useful and inclusive standard."

==> JIM SMITH, VK9NS (SK)

Jim Smith, VK9NS (ex-P29JS), of Norfolk Island, Australia, passed away Tuesday, February 10, after a short illness. He was 80. A noted DXer and ARRL member, Smith was #81 on the Islands on the Air (IOTA) Honour Roll <http://www.rsgbiota.org/>.

According to Bernie McClenny, W3UR, editor of "The Daily DX", Smith was first licensed in 1947 as VS1BQ in Singapore: "Through the years, Jim operated as CAR (VU4 Nicobar), VS1BQ, DL2TH, HZ1AB, MP4BER, 9V1PR, P29JS, VR4BJ, H44BJ, G3HSR, C21AA, T3KJ, T3AJ, VK9YS, VK9XS, VK9NS, VK0JS/VK9N, 9M8JS, VK0JS, ZL0AAB, ZM7JS, ZL1BUN, T30JS, T1JS, T32JS, T33JS, A35MR, A51JS, S21U, WR1Z, WR1Z/KH9, S21ZA, VK9WW, A35MR/p, A51MOC, VU2JBS, NO1Z/KH1, VK9WW, WR1Z/KH8, H40AB and A52JS, just to name a few." Smith was originally from Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland.

McClenny said that in 1980, Smith founded the Heard Island DX Association (HIDXA) <http://www.hidxa.nlk.nf/>. Three years later, along with wife Kirsti, VK9NL, Smith put the rare VK0/H on the air as VK0NS and VK0NL. "Over the years, Jim put on several all time new countries -- as well as many rare ones -- from the Pacific and Asia," McClenny said. "In fact, he took part in the regulations for Amateur Radio in several DXCC entities. When not out on DXpeditions, Jim could usually be found on 14.222 MHz."

Mike Tessmer, K9NW/VK9NW, who visited Norfolk Island for a week in November 2004, remembered Smith fondly on the Society of Midwest Contesters' e-mail reflector: "I spent three wonderful afternoons at Jim and Kirsti's house having tea -- coffee in my case -- and discussing all things DX. Jim showed me the old Collins gear he was restoring. I even picked up a few QSL cards from some of his past DXpeditions. Great memories!"

In an e-mail to ARRL Membership and Volunteer Services Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, Andy Chesnokov, UA3AB, told how he first met Smith in Bhutan in 2000 while on the A52A DXpedition <http://www.qsl.net/bhutan2000/>. "Boy, Jim was quite upset with us operating from 'his territory,'" Chesnokov said. "But we went along quite nicely after few minutes, and he even allowed us to operate his tiny station there. I met him few times after that and he was a true gentleman."

Calling him "a serious DXer," McClenny said Smith worked all countries on SSB, Mixed and only missing one on CW. In April 1986 Jim was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame. One of Smith's last big projects was writing his autobiography, "The Old Timer" <http://www.jimkirsti.com/books.html>. Smith is survived by his wife Kirsti, VK9NL, and his four children: Bruce, G3HSR, Stuart, Sheena and Fraser. Condolences may be sent to Kirsti via e-mail <mailto:jimkirsti@ni.net.nf>. -- Some information provided by "The Daily DX" <http://www.dailydx.com/>

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The red Sun flashes on village windows" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspots returned this week, or rather, one did, but it is an old Solar Cycle 23 spot. Sunspot 1012 has been visible the last couple of days, February 11-12. It is down near the Sun's equator, typical for spots from a previous cycle. It's nice to have a sunspot, but it doesn't indicate activity from the new Solar Cycle 24, which has been so eerily quiet. Sunspot numbers for February 5-11 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 11 with a mean of 1.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.1, 70.1, 71.1, 71.2, 70.7, 67.6 and 70.3 with a mean of 70.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 7, 2, 3, 4, 4, 3 and 5 with a mean of 4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0 and 2 with a mean of 1.4.. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Afternoon in February" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/afternoon-in-february/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the Valentine's Day Sprint and the YL-OM Contest are February 13-14. The Asia Pacific Sprint and the FISTS CW Winter Sprint are both February 14. On February 14-15, look for the CQWW WPX Contest, (RTTY), the Northern New York QSO Party, the EU EME Contest, the New Hampshire QSO Party, the Dutch PACC Contest, the Louisiana QSO Party, the OMISS QSO Party and the RSGB 160 Meter Contest. The North American Sprint (SSB) is February 15 and the Classic Exchange is February 15-16. Next week is the ARRL International DX Contest (CW) on February 21-22. The AM QSO Party and the REF Contest are also February 21-22. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, February 22, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Technician License Course; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* W1AW to QSY on 160 Meters: Starting Monday, March 9, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, will begin using a new 160 meter frequency for its CW transmissions. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, there has been what he called "increasing activity" near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz. "In order to reduce the possibility of interference, W1AW will move to 1802.5 kHz," Carcia said.

* K5D Is On the Air!: Due to some heavy winds that delayed helicopter relays onto Desecheo Island, the K5D DXpedition <http://www.k5d.us/> got off to a late start. But according to reports received by the ARRL, as of around 12 noon (EST) on February 13, operators on the island are QRV on 17 and 20 meters; the team will be running CW, SSB and RTTY on 160-6 meters. The DXpedition, headed by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, is expected to be on Desecheo until February 26. Desecheo Island

currently sits at #7 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list; the island is the second most-wanted DXCC entity in Asia and third most-wanted in Europe. Desecheo is a small uninhabited island in the Mona Passage, 14 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico. It is part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's national wildlife refuge system administered by the Caribbean National Wildlife Refuge Complex (CNWR).

* Radio Society of Bermuda Celebrates Founding of Island with Special Call Sign: Four hundred years ago, Sir George Somers settled the island of Bermuda. To celebrate, the Radio Society of Bermuda (RSB) <http://www.bermudashorts.bm/rsb/> will use VP9400/xx (xx is the operator's call sign -- VP9LN would use VP9400/LN). Be aware that some Bermudian Novices have three-letter suffixes.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify

membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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39. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1644 - February 13, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-13 21:18:28 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090213131313.01833ef0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2249
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1644 - February 13, 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1644 with a release date of Friday, February 13th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio assists a brush fires rage in Australia, New Zealand hams to get more of 40 meters, a big win for mobile operation in Colorado, a new ham radio youth group wants you and the story of an honor recently bestowed on the ham who brought an amateur station to the Queen Mary. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number
1644 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO VS, THE VK BRUSHFIRES

Ham radio is on the fire-lines once again. This time its happening down under as we hear from Robert Broomhead, VK3KRB, reports from Melbourne:

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On line to begin this report I have Mark Dodds, VK3XMU, who is the secretary of WICEN. The WICEN guys that are in the field: What exactly are they doing?

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VK3XMU: "Our initial activation was to provide services for the councils when they were unable to communicate with the phone system being down. That role has expanded today as we posted some extra people to Alexandra to start operating the Incident Control Center radios for the DSE and CFA. That's the role we have done in the last couple of fires and its one that usually gets handed to us about now when some of the DSE and CFA resources for that sort of task start to run low.

"So far we have been posted to King Lake and Alexandra and we have some men on strand-by to be posted to the towns on the southern end of the Mirinda Highway below Alexandra when those towns are opened up."

--

And I guess for you guys this will be a long term commitment rather thjan a short term one?

--

VK3XMU: "We are expecting that the recovery phase in and around Marysville will be over a period of months, though we might not be posted there quite that long but we do expect to be there for certainly weeks.

"We have had offers of assistance from North Queensland, from Perth, we have had people offer to come across on the ferry from Tasmania and we have even had an offer from Japan for people to do net control for us if we needed it."

--

We are now joined on line by Fred Swenson, VK3DAC. Fred is on his property in Talangie. Talangie has been directly hit by bush fires and is still under ember attack. Fred joins us on his mobile phone:

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VK3DAC: "We're running off generators up here. We have no telephones or Internet connection. My mobile phone is the only thing that's working as we have some cable problems with the telephone system.

"I have been using amateur radio to talk to the radio group and I have access to the repeater. They have been providing me with updated weather reports and intimate details of the fires like locations. This has proven to be very useful and they have been very supportive.

"Im not the only person in the club that has been impacted by the fires. A couple of our members have. One has lost a home so I believe and another had a major problem with damage to his property.

"So, our network is working extremely well and its provided us with first hand information that's up to date and accurate."

--

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Robert Broomhead, VK3KRB, of the WIA National News reporting from Australia.

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For those not aware, Australia's WICIN is the equivalent of ARES and RACES here in the United States. So far more than 200 people have lost their lives in this year's Australian brushfires. And as you heard, hams down under remain on alert. More on this story in future Newsline reports. (WIA News)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NEW ZEALAND HAMS TO GET 7.1 - 7.2 MHZ PRIMARY

Still down-under, the New Zealand telecommunications regulatory authority has announced that nations amateur radio service will be given Primary access to 7.1 to 7.2 MHz after March 29th. The Ministry of Economic Development says that its making the change in accordance with the International Telecommunications Union's latest Radio Regulations. The latest ones published last year state that the use of the band 7.1 to 7.2

MHz for Broadcasting services will cease after March 29th 2009. (Southgate)

**

RADIO POLICY: IARU WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

The International Amateur Radio Union has voted to admit the Emirates Amateur Radio Society and the Kazakhstan Federation of Radiosports and Radioamateur to the organization. The Emirates Amateur Radio Society was admitted by a vote of 72 in favor with 1 abstention. The Kazakhstan Federation received a unanimous 73 votes in favor. A minimum of 57 affirmative votes was required for adoption of new members into the IARU. (IARU)

**

RADIO LAW: COLORADO HAMS WIN EXEMPTION TO CELLPHONE LAW

Meantime, on this side of the Pacific, Colorado amateur radio operators appear to have won a significant legislative victory before the Transportation and Energy Committee of the Colorado House of Representatives. This in relation to a bill concerning wireless telephone prohibitions on drivers that hams feared might impact on their ability to operate mobile. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is here with the details:

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While the Colorado House Bill 09-1094 provided exemptions for public safety personnel within the scope of their duties and for the general public in an emergency, there was worry that enforcement authorities would fail to differentiate between amateur radio transceivers and traditional cellular telephones. Concerned about the possible ambiguity, Colorado Section Manager Jeff Ryan, K0RM, alerted Colorado Section Public Information Coordinator Robert Wareham, N0ESQ, of the situation. Wareham reviewed the proposed bill and together with Section Manager Ryan, devised a plan to address the concerns.

Ryan had a reluctance to add any amendments for what she considered "special interests." After introduction the Bill was referred to the House
Committee on Transportation and Energy. A quick check by Wareham revealed that his local representative and fellow attorney, Frank McNulty was a committee member.

McNulty agreed to introduce an amendment to clearly exempt amateur radio operators. House Bill 09-1094 came before the committee on February 3rd. Testimony in support of the bill was emotional and compelling. Among others there was a mother who had lost her 9-year-old daughter to an inattentive driver fishing for a ringing cell phone.

Wareham testified on behalf of the Colorado ARRL Section. He reminded the lawmakers of the important role amateur radio plays in response to disasters and in support of the National Weather Service. He distinguished the use of mobile and portable radios from that of cellular telephones and

pointed out that using an amateur radio on a routine basis required far less human interaction. Holding up a Yaesu FT-60 dual band portable, he showed the lawmakers how an HT with a tone pad might be mistaken for a wireless telephone device by misinformed law enforcement officials.

Following almost two hours of testimony from numerous witnesses, Representative McNulty introduced his amendment which was seconded by the committee Chair. When the Chair asked if there were any objections to the amendment both Ryan and Wareham were surprised that not a single member of the committee, nor the Bill's author, offered any objection.

The measure was eventually approved by a vote of 9 to 2. It was then forwarded to the House Committee on Appropriations prior to being sent to the full House for a vote. Assuming the Bill passes through the appropriation screening, it will then be brought before the entire House or Representatives for a vote there. It must then be approved in the Colorado State Senate before being sent to the Governor for his signature.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

If the Bill makes it to the governor's desk and he signs it into law, the new law has a proposed effective date of December 1st 2009. (N0DRC, ATNewsline(tm))

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N5YYU repeater serving Clinton, Arkansas.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: A BIG TOWER VICTORY FOR A CALIFORNIA HAM

Meantime, a big win in a highly publicized California antenna case. Mark Abromowicz, NT3V, reports:

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Alex Zubarau WB6X will be allowed to put his tower back up after a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge rules the city of Palmdale was wrong to force him to remove it after granting him a valid permit.

Judge David Yaffe handed down the ruling on Feb. 6.

Zubarau found himself caught up in a neighborhood dispute that spilled over into a petition filed with the City of Palmdale after it had granted him permission to install his tower.

As with most cases, this one goes back a few years to 2005 when Zubarau first applied for a permit. It was approved and Zubarau put hi a 22-foot crank-up tower which had the ability to rise to 55 feet.

But he didn't put a 4-element, 20 meter antenna on the tower until January 2007.

That's when his problems began and the neighbors raised such concerns as the aesthetic impact it was having, potentially suppressing property values and, the big one, causing interference with other electronic devices.

After getting the neighbors petition, the Palmdale council voted to revoke Zubarau's permit and he was directed by the planning commission to take not only the antenna but the tower structure down.

Enter the American Radio Relay League with volunteer counsel Len Shaffer WA6QHD and lots of support from hams in the Palmdale area as well as individuals and organizations from around the region who contributed money to his legal fight.

The ARRL also voted to contribute 5-thousand-dollars to the Zubarau defense fund.

Before going to court, Shaffer - Zubarau's attorney - tried to convince the council and its attorney that the antenna and the tower posed no interference to the neighbors.

As Zubarau's case was heading to court, the Palmdale Planning Commission began drafting an amendment to the community's antenna ordinance that would severely hamper amateur radio operators.

The amateur community quickly got word about it and began efforts to derail it.

Among those writing to the Palmdale authorities to raise concern was the ARRL's General Counsel Chris Imlay W3KD.

Imlay pointed out very succinctly to Palmdale officials that their proposed ordinance is unenforceable because it is pre-empted by federal and state laws.

As to the radio interference issues, Imlay noted those matters are strictly in the hands of the Federal Communications Commission.

In spite of that, it appears Palmdale officials are willing to spend tax dollars to continue their efforts to work on the proposed ordinance. It's unclear, however, whether they'll appeal the judge's ruling in the Zubarau case.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V.

--

Still to be decided is the fate of that Palmdale's proposed anti-ham radio antenna law. A hearing on that was supposed to have taken place but was put on hold when the city realized the level of response that hams in the

area had organized. (K7FE, ARRL, ARNewsline(tm))

**

WITH THE ARRL: LEAGUE CHANGING FREQUENCY ON TOP BAND

The ARRL is changing frequency on Top-Band. Starting Monday, March 9, the League's Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160 meter frequency of 1802.5 kHz for its CW transmissions. The change is being made to accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5. The move by W1AW to 1802.5 kHz should reduce the possibility of interference. (ARRL)

**

RADIO AND YOUTH: NEW YOUTH GROUP WANTS YOU

A new national youth oriented ham radio group headquartered in Belen, New Mexico is seeking both youngsters and adult members to join and help them get active. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reports:

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The Amateur Radio Youth Association was founded by three young hams. They are Dustin Cox, N0DRC, Jared Robbins, KE5LZV, and Phil Shaw, KE5LZX.

Originally called the Amateur Radio Cowboy Club, since November of 2007 the group has taken what it calls a new outlook on Amateur Radio. As a result, is now dedicating its self to the education of the general public and of its youth.

The long range mission of the Amateur Radio Youth Association and its KE5RPV station is to further teach the public about the importance of Amateur Radio and to help students in middle school, and high school learn subjects through the use of Amateur Radio.

A very noble task indeed, being taken on by a group of rather dedicated young hams. They deserve our support.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm the worlds oldest young ham, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, age 67, in the Newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

To Join the Amateur Radio Youth Association go the www dot ke5rpv dot org and click on the "Membership Application" tab on the left of the page. N0DRC says that anyone who wants to join will be welcomed whether you already have your ham radio license or not. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: TWO BROADCASTERS HIT WITH TOWER FINES

Two commercial broadcast tower operators have received significant fines from the FCC. Jason Konarz, licensee of station WQMA-AM, in Marks, Mississippi., was fined $14,000 for not enclosing the base of the tower

with a locked fence. Initially announced in November, the fine was announced as a Forfeiture Order. It's now confirmed because the FCC say that Konarz didn't respond to the initial notice.

Another decision that has escalated to a Forfeiture Order involves Perry Broadcasting Systems, owner of two towers in Lajas, Puerto Rico. The agency said both towers lack red obstruction lighting. Perry also failed to tell the commission immediately that the towers have changed hands. The FCC has now fined Perry $13,000. (FCC)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: TOWERS CONTINUE TO MAKE MONEY

If you own a communications tower anywhere in the world, you will likely be able to weather the current fiscal recession. This, according to a pair of technology research companies that track communications tower usage.

Globally, technology research firm Gartner Incorporated says that consumer broadband connections are estimated to jump to 499 million in 2012. This is up by more than 54 percent from 323 million in 2007.

Here in the United States the Stanford Group estimates that the $7 billion tower market, dominated by American Tower, SBA Communications and Crown Castle International, is expected to grow 8 percent to 9 percent in 2009. This, as phone companies, grappling with weaker demand for land line services, are now striving to retain users by investing in new, high-speed Internet and video services. (RW)

**

ELECTRONIC ANNIVERSARY: THE APPLE MAC HITS 25

And a happy birthday to the Apple Macintosh computer which turned 25 back on January 24th. The Mac, as it became known in computing circles, made its public debut in 1984 and kicked off a product line that were Apple's flagship computers for many years. Rebecca Bruce, has more:

--

The project to create the Macintosh was started by legendary computer maker Jeff Raskin. The original machine had a 9 inch screen in an upright beige case, 128 kilobytes of RAM, internal floppy drive, and came with a keyboard and single-button mouse.

The operating system featured a Graphical User Interface with the mouse used to navigate the computer. This, by clicking on screen icons rather than having to type command line instructions.

The first Macintosh was unveiled in a television advertising campaign directed by film maker Ridley Scott. Those advertisements were originally aired during that year's Superbowl game in late January.

Apple had previously produced computers using a graphical user interface such as the Apple Lisa. Those machines cost far more than the original

Macintosh and never gained much popularity. The Mac, did.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rebecca Bruce, in Los Angeles.

--

Although rival Microsoft had launched its MS DOS operating system in 1981 it was not until 1985, a year after the Macintosh made its debut, that it introduced its own GUI called Microsoft Windows. However, Windows did not enjoy any significant popularity until the advent of version 3.x in 1990. (Science OnLine)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS" SEVHF CONFERENCE CALLS FOR PAPERS

A call for papers to be presented at the 2009 Southeastern VHF Society Conference is now open. The gathering takes place on April 24th and 25th in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The cutoff date to submit manuscripts for publication in the conference proceedings is March 2nd and should be weak signal VHF, UHF or Microwave related. Papers go by e-mail to Stephen Kostro, N2CEI at svhfs2009 (at) downeastmicrowave (dot) com (SEVHFS Release)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: OUTPOST PM CREATOR TO SPEAK AT WEST COAST EMMCOM U

The organizers of EMCOMM U have announced that Jim Oberhofer, KN6PE, the author of the Outpost PM emergency packet messaging software, will present two sessions at the event. The first will be the morning keynote, during which KN6PE will introduce Outpost PM to those not already familiar with it.

The second presentation will be a special session talking about how to actually set-up an Outpost PM network for use in your community. There, hardware, software, radios, and other aspects of a successful Outpost PM installation will be discussed.

EMCOMM U, is a one-day training workshop organized by San Joaquin County ARES and sponsored by the Tracy Amateur Radio Club, the Manteca Amateur Radio Club, and the San Joaquin County EMS Agency being held Saturday, March 14th in Stockton, California. For more information, visit www.emcommu.org. (EMCOMM U Press release)

**

HAM RADIO ON VIDEO: 2008 ARRL - TAPR DCC NOW ON DVD

The three-day ARRL and TAPR 2008 Digital Communications Conference is now available on a six DVD set from Amateur Radio Video News. The conference was held last September near Chicago and featured 21 technical papers and introductory sessions from hams on the leading edge of digital communication. The video set was produced by Gary Pearce KN4AQ. Topics covered include advanced Software Defined Radio, APRS and Packet Radio,

D-STAR, Winlink 2000/WINMOR and more. A free preview, more details, and on-line ordering is available at www.ARVideoNews.com (KN4AQ, ARVN)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: QCWA DAYTON HAMVENTION BANQUET MAY 16th

The Quarter Century Wireless Association 2009 Hamvention Banquet is now slated for 7:30 PM on Friday, May 16th at the Holiday Inn located on Main Street and I-70 in Dayton, Ohio. The after dinner presentation will include a documentary film titled "On Great White Wings" which tells the story of the famed Wright brothers discovery of flight. The cost of the evening is $20 per person. Prepaid reservations go to Jerry Ragland, WA8BOB, 409 Park Ave, Franklin, Ohio, 45005-3500 (WB8IFM)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DAYTON HAMVENTION TO HOST 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Dayton Hamvention will again play host to the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Hara Arena May 15th to the 17th.

According to a press release, the centerpiece of ARRL's convention planning is its ARRL EXPO. This, the League describes as a huge showcase of ARRL program representatives and activities. In addition, many new exhibits are being planned, with special focus on operating and project-building.

A preview of what is planned for ARRL EXPO can be found at the ARRL EXPO Web site. It's in cyberspace at www.arrl.org/expo (ARRL)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: FAMED DX'ER JIM SMITH, VK9NS - SK

The changing of the guard in amateur radio continues with word of the passing of Famed DX'er Jim Smith, VK9NS, of Norfolk Island, Australia, who passed away Tuesday, February 10. Better known by his old call P29JS, Smith not only put rare locations on the air but also was the founder of the Heard Island DX Association. He also authored his own autobiography that he simply titled The Old Timer.

Smith was a member of the CQ Magazine DX Hall of Fame. He was age 80 when he died following a short illness and is survived by his wife Kirsti, VK9NL, and his four children. At airtime, funeral arrangements have not

been announced. (K5SW, W0WO)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DIETER SCHLIEMANN KX4Y _ SK

And, the sad news from AMSAT of the passing of Dieter Schliemann, KX4Y. According to Amateur Radio on the International Space Station International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, Schliemann was instrumental in supporting many important activities allied to the ARISS program as well as within AMSAT itself. His greatest accomplishment may have been his organizing the use EchoLink and IRLP to assist with classroom contacts with hams on Earth orbit. Schliemann, of Scottsboro, Alabama, was 68 when he passed away on February 9 following a battle with cancer. (KA3HDO)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: TWO COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES COLLIDE

Two communications satellites collided in the first-ever crash of two such spacecraft on-orbit. The collision involved a United States Iridium commercial satellite, which was launched in 1997, and a Russian satellite launched in 1993. The Russian satellite was believed to be nonfunctioning and out of control.

The Iridium craft weighed 1,235 pounds, and the Russian craft nearly a ton. Scientists have yet to determine how many fragments were generated or how large they might be. NASA said it will take weeks to determine the full magnitude of the crash which occurred nearly 500 miles over Siberia on Tuesday, February 10th. (NASA)

**

WORLDBEAT: 2 METER AM TAKING OFF IN THE UK

A retro ham radio movement to 2 meter AM is gaining popularity in the United Kingdom. The renewed interest in AM seems to be driven by the availability of cheap ex-land-mobile equipment. Also because VHF AM rigs can be simple to build, making them ideal home construction projects.

As a result, footnote 8 of the UK 2 meter plan now says that the use of Amplitude Modulation is acceptable within the All Modes segment of the band. It also notes that AM usage may often be found on 144.550 MHz although this frequency is not officially recognized within the 2 Meter band plan.

The RSGB does ask AM users to consider adjacent channel activity when selecting operating frequencies. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: CROATIA, SPECIAL EVENT STATION

The 48th conference of the International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers' Associations will take place in the Croatian city Cavtat, from

April 20th to the 24th. To commemorate the meeting, the special call 9A48IFATCA is active until December 31st. QSLs to 9A4WW either direct or via bureau. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: HAM RADIO CELEBRATES RAI

It was 55 years ago that Italian broadcaster Radiotelevisione Italiana took to the airwaves. The first TV signals aired in January 1954 which is reason enough to activate the special event station II2RAI until Dec 31st of this year. QSL to IQ2RD via bureau or electronically using Logbook to the World. (Southgate)

**

DX

In DX word from EA4ATI that he and a team of operators are preparing to activate Nauru, in the Pacific, sometime in May. The callsign will be C21TI. Travelling through Australia to get to Nauru, tentative dates will be
either from May 3rd to the 17th or the 16th to the 30th Activity will be on all HF bands including 60 and 6 meters. QSL will be via EA4ATI.

N4BP and K4PG, as C6AKQ and C6APG respectively, will be active from the Bahamas through February 22nd. Look for them to be on 30, 17 and 12 meters between antenna jobs. QSL to their home callsigns, direct or via the Bureau.

Also, K3TEJ, will active from Dominica through February 27th. He is operating CW and RTTY with a focus on 160, 30, 17 and 12 meters. QSL via K3TEJ, direct or via the bureau.

And later this year, keep time open to look for K9OT and KB9LIE who plan on operating portable F P from Miquelon Island from July 10th to the 18th. They will also participate in the IARU HF World Championship Contest on July 12th and 13th. Activity outside of the contest will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL direct with return postage or through the bureau. Logbook to the World electronic QSL's are also welcome but they are not accepting verifications from those using eQSL.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: RADIO ROOM ON QM RENAMED TO HONOR K6OSC

And finally this week, word that the wireless room on board the Queen Mary Ocean Liner attraction in Long Beach California was recently renamed the Nate Brightman Radio Room. This, in honor of Nate Brightman, K6OSC, who helped to make a radio station on board the retired luxury liner a reality many years ago. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Teenent, K6PZW, has the rest of the story:

--

Nate Brightman, K6OSC, lives in Long Beach, California and holds an Advanced Class license. Now in his 90's, he was first licensed in 1957, and is in his 32nd year in service with his local Red Cross Disaster Services group. More important is that Nate Brightman is now in his 30th year as manager of W6RO aboard the Queen Mary. Some say it's a station that would not exist if not for K6OSC.

Nate Brightman first thought up the idea of an amateur radio station aboard the Queen Mary to be on the air during the ocean liner's final voyage from Southampton England to Long Beach. He suggested the concept to his local club, the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach. After getting the green light, Brightman began the very difficult job of trying to get things organized on an international scale. He was successful when fellow club member Al Lee, W6KQI, was issued a United Kingdom amateur radio license and the commemorative call letters of GB5QM. This was the only amateur radio station ever licensed for operation aboard the Queen Mary, and the first time an American was licensed to operate ham radio aboard a British flag-carrying ship.

The voyage lasted six weeks due to the route the Queen had to take around Cape Horn. During the trip, W6KQI made over 3,000 contacts using a donated Swan 500 transceiver. After the ship was in port at Long Beach for restoration, Brightman submitted a 12 page proposal for a permanent amateur radio operation aboard the Queen Mary. It took a number of years, but on April 27th 1979, Queen Mary station W6RO went on the air and has been in continuous use ever since.

For his work in getting a ham station on the Queen Mary for its final voyage and in spearheading the W6RO station in the ship's Radio Room, Nate Bightman, K6OSC, was named as the 1991 recipient of the Dayton Hamvention Special Achievement Award.

Now the ultimate honor for the man that made it happen: The renaming of the radio room in his name as a lasting tribute. One that was announced by the outgoing Director of the Queen Mary Foundation, Joe Prevatil, before his organization turned over management of the ship to Save the Queen, LLP. Ironically, Prevatil made the announcement at K6OSC's 90th birthday party which was held on board the Queen Mary.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, editorializing a bit to say congratulations Nate Brightman, K6OSC. You truly deserve the honor.

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For more information about W6RO or to become a Wireless Room Operator, e-mail W6RO (at) queenmary (dot) com. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only
official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words 2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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40. Sorry For Delay

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-13 21:23:49 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090213131455.03eec1f0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2250
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Hi All,

I know from my "bounced e-mail" that Netcom / Earthlink had problems overnight and that many of you did not receive Newsline 1644. The newscast was prefeed poted at about 2:05 a.m. Pacific, as is normal, but I received 53 bounce backs out of 67 on the prefeed list. As I am on vacatoion I did not open my e-mail till a bit ago and found the problem. I have no resent the prefeed and hope that this time it makes it to all of you. Meantime I am about to get on the phone to Earthlink and have a few words with them. Lastly to thoe of you who received the original feed -- the replacement is the same material

My appologies to all...

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF
Editor, Etc.

41. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-15 07:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1234681200@panix.com>
Source record: 2151
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.8 2008/11/27 18:50:32
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations | campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or | reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be | permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked | to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such | products or services. |

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. | However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information | is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing | thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no | information about what a user should expect to find there will be | rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for | rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which | itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as | a URL containing embedded name-calling). |

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar

government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

42. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1645 - February 20 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-20 10:20:09 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090220021647.01627a58@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2152
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1645 - February 20 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1645 with a release date of Friday, February 20th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams down-under continue their relief work in the wake of this year deadly bush fires, amateurs in Brunei set up a disaster communications network, the K5D operation comes on the air, Newsline looks for speakers for this years Hamvention Ham Radio Town Meeting and a 4 meter E-M-E record is set. Yes, we did say 4 meters and you can find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1645 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: WICEN CONTINUES TO ASSIST IN VK BUSH FIRES

Ham radio response to Australia's bush fires continues. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the latest information from down-under:

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Australia's Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network, better known as WICEN, continues to provide communications links in a number of affected bushfire areas.

WICEN in Victoria state and the State Disaster Plan Emergency Communications Organization were both put on standby alert on Saturday February 7th. This shaped up to be the worst day since Australia's Ash Wednesday Bushfire disaster of 1983.

WICEN was fully activated on February 9th. That was two days into the Black Saturday bushfire. This, with an initial request for operators in Kinglake region north-east of Melbourne. This was one of the worst hit areas and had no communications or power. Operators were also needed in Alexandra.

The role of the WICEN hams was to provide links on a 24 hour basis between Kinglake and the Alexandra municipal emergency coordination center for the Shire Council. The operators headed for Alexandra had to reach their assignment via a long route due to road closures. Those with duty at Kinglake needed to be escorted through hazardous road conditions from the staging area at the Whittlesea Showgrounds. WICEN hams also assisted in the restoration of the local municipal two-way radio service in the Kinglake area.

Amateur radio links were made with another the town. That of Narbethong with two operators maintaining them.

The next element of the WICEN deployment was at McAdam's Hill. There, where two operators provided health and welfare communications for a team of firefighters at their base camp.

Two skeds, one at 10:00 and 21:30 hours, are held daily on 3.6 MHz. Those nets help to keep emergency responders up to date and share information. They also enable a check on the welfare of emergency communications operators in the field. A portable repeater is in service.

Clearly this disaster is far from over and we will have more in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports.

In the newsroom in Los Angeles, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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A we go to air, the death toll from these brush fire has already exceeded 180. One man has been arrested and will likely be charged with starting at least one of the blazes. (Amateur Radio Victoria WICEN)

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RESCUE RADIO: GEORGIA SKYWARN ACTIVATES FOR SEVERE WEATHER OUTBREAK

This just in. The National Weather Service office in Peachtree City, Georgia, was quite busy on Wednesday, February 18th and a Skywarn net was equally active as well.

According to Lloyd Colston, KC5FM, an alert was called at about 3:45 P.M. local time as warnings went out about the possibility of tornadoes and other severe weather moving through the area.

Amateur radio operations were brought on line from the National Weather Service office. These included an Echolink net, a high frequency voice net on 3.975 MHz, and the use of the Automatic Packet Reporting System on 144.39 MHz. Here's a sample of the VHF communications that went on during the storm:

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Actual ham radio emergency communications audio.

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KC5FM says that baseball size hail along with damaging winds were reported by hams to the National Weather Service office. More on the hams involved in this severe weather response is on-line at www.georgiakywarn.com. (KC5FM)

**

RESCUE RADIO: BRUNEI HAMS SET UP EMCOMM STATION

The Brunei Darussalam Amateur Radio Association has taken on the role of providing assistance in time of national emergencies. This by establishing an emergency communication network using amateur radio to reach remote areas of that nation that have conventional communication system breakdowns. According to a club release the organization has installed a ham radio station at the Brunei National Disaster Management Center.

This station is manned by members of association. It is designed to receive reports from the remote villages in the and pass them on to first responders and other disaster assistance providers.

It should be noted that the current bad weather and associated disasters have hit numerous Brunei residents depriving some around the country of their minimal life essentials. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: VE4DJ NAMED MANATOBA EMERGENFCY MEASURES ORGANIZATIOIN DIRECTOR

Still with rescue radio news, word that Don Mackinnon, VE4DJ, has become the Director of Planning for the Manitoba Canada's Emergency Measures Organization. A lawyer and former police officer, Mackinnon had been the Radio Amateurs of Canada Manitoba Section Emergency Coordinator for some 12 years.

Besides his many other contributions to amateur radio, VE4DJ chaired the Radio Amateurs of Canada National Training Resource Group that was commissioned by the organization's Vice President for Field Services in August, 2006. (RAC)

**

REAKING DX NEWS: DESECHEO ISLAND K5D IS ON THE AIR

The long awaited K5D Desecheo Island DXpedition is now on the air. The QSO count was slightly under 10,000 in the first 24 hours. This, with only two stations in operation most of that time.

Getting to Desecheo took the operators a bit longer than anticipated. This, due to higher-than-expected winds which delayed helicopter trips from the transport boat to the island campsite. This meant that the group was unable to complete their planned for full setup on Thursday, February 12th. That problem is well behind them

Meantime the Caribbean Amateur Radio Group is planing to hold a satellite Q-S-O with the Desecheo Island DXpedition team. The contact had planned for this past Friday, February 20th, using the AO-51 satellite.

So far the K5D has operation has exceeded 40,000 contacts in the short time it has been on the air. We will have more DX related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (Press release)

**

RADIO RECORD: THE FIRST 4 METER EME CONTACT CLAIMED

It could be a world record on the 4 meter band. This, as Andy Kissack, GD0TEP, on the Isle on Man reports on a Earth - Moon - Earth or EME contact which that he says could prove to be a first.

Andy says on his website that following tests carried out by himself and GD4GNH back in 2006, he finally found a suitable station to try for an EME contact on the 4 meter band. As a result, Andy and ZS6WAB in South Africa tried an EME sked on Friday evening, February 13th. Unfortunately, his mast mounted transmit and receive relay failed due to water ingress.

Their 2nd try was the morning of February 15th. Visibility of the Moon at Andy's location came at 00:38 UTC and at 01:34 he received his first moon echo. About a minute later, Andy and ZS6WAB completed what both operators believe to be the world's first 4meter EME contact using the low noise JT65a digital mode. Screen shots of the QSO are on line at www dot gd0tep dot com. (VHF Reflector)

**

REGULATORY: INTERIM FCC CHAIRMAN COPPS MAKES FCC INFO MORE ACCESSABLE

Interim Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Copps is trying to make communication within the agency and between the FCC and the public more accessible.

Radio World reports that the FCC now holds a weekly meeting of bureau heads and representatives from the commissioner's offices. This to permit an ongoing dialogue between the various bureaus. He is also setting regularly scheduled dates for Commission meetings.

Chairman Copps has also begun a new program of on-passing information from his office to the other commissioners and bureaus at the same time. This he says permits everyone concerned with a given matter a better idea of what's taking place. (RW)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KD6LC repeater serving Guerenville, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

BREAKING NEWS: NC HAMS WIN EXCLUSUION FROM MOBILE CELLPHONE BAN

North Carolina lawmakers are again considering a ban on cell phone use while driving, but Amateur Radio operators in the state would be specifically exempted, thanks to an amendment requested by Bob Conder K4RLC, the ARRL State Government Liaison officer.

The bill was debated on Tuesday by the state Senate Commerce Committee. State Senator William Purcell, a co-sponsor of the bill, told Conder that

Amateur Radio was already exempt because it wasn't covered by the definition of "mobile phone". Conder asked for a specific exemption anyway, fearing that law enforcement officers on the street wouldn't make the distinction between a cell phone and ham radio. The amendment, which reads "This term does not include two-way mobile radio transmitters or receivers used by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service" was accepted without discussion.

During committee debate, one Senator did ask if the bill would cover Nextel style "push-to-talk" - operation that is similar to Amateur Radio. After that concept was explained to some senators who didn't understand it, the bill's sponsor said it "probably would" be included in the ban.

Similar bills have been introduced in North Carolina over the past few years, and all have been defeated or died in committee. A similar fate is expected for this bill, but last year the state did enact a ban for drivers under 18.

Reporting for Newsline, I'm Gary Pearce KN4AQ. (KN4AQ)

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IOWA PROPOSES BANNING ALL MOBILE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Iowa could become the first state to completely ban all forms of wireless mobile in motion communications that is not operated hands free. A measure being brought before the Iowa legislature will prohibit the driver of a motor vehicle from operating or using a cellular telephone or any other wireless communication device without using a hands free adapter while operating a motor vehicle on a street or highway.

The only exceptions are for emergency situations when the use of a handheld phone or device is to call 911 or contact law enforcement authorities or an emergency response agency. Nor does the bill prohibit a driver from using such devices when the motor vehicle is at a complete stop off the roadway.

No exemptions are included for law enforcement, fire, rescue or any other certified first responders. As written, the measure appears to also ban commercial two-way radio, GMRS, amateur and even 11 meter CB. The proposed legislation establishes a fine of $30 as the penalty for a first offense.

The Iowa measure is designated as House File 9. Hams and other two way radio interests will need to act quickly to secure exemptions before the proposal becomes an Iowa state law. (AC0LM)

**

ENFORCEMENT: WINTER HAVEN FLORIDA PIRATE OPERATOR ARRESTED

Deputies in Polk County Florida along with the FCC and the Winter Haven Police have arrested Anthony Davis for unlicensed broadcasting. This, after searching his Winter Haven home.

Detectives say that they found audio mixers, microphones, and other station equipment at his residence. Also found was a 100 watt transmitter that they say Davis was using to broadcast reggae music station on 87.9 FM.

Davis called his station format "One Love Radio". He has been charged with unlawful transmission on a radio frequency which is a third degree felony under Florida state law. The raid on Davis home was the result of complaints from a local Orlando TV station. (TampaBay News)

**

HAM RADIO AND THE WWW: GOOD CHANGES AT QRZ.COM

Some changes to the look and feel of the giant QRZ.com ham radio website. Effective immediately, the Ham Radio Announcements area has been renamed Contests, DXpeditions and Special Events and is directly clickable from the home page menu bar as the Events button. Also, the Hamfests and Event Calendar has been renamed simply to Hamfest Calendar and now has a direct menu button from the front page. (QRZ.com)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: PACIFICON AND EMCOMMWEST MERGE

Some major changes coming to ham radio conventions west of the Continental Divide. This as Pacificon announces it merger with the Reno, Nevada, based Emcommwest. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno and has the details:

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Prior to this year, Emcommwest has been an emergency communications specialty convention, here in Reno, Nevada during may and Pacificon, home to the pacific division convention in San Ramon, California during October. well, this year, they will combine into one giant amateur radio convention as Emcommwest hosts Pacificon, which will be this year's pacific division convention.

According to Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, this is a merger that will bring the best of amateur radio to one location for the enjoyment of everyone. The dates are May 1st to the 3rd at the Circus-Circus hotel resort and casino in downtown Reno.

We'll have license testing, the Reno spring Ham-Swap on Saturday morning, a Friday night welcome barbecue, and of course, our Saturday night banquet featuring our special guest, former FCC enforcement chief Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, the ARRL's public service manager from Newington, who will join pacific division leadership officials as they take part in the ARRL forum.

There will also be sessions, seminars and forums and an expanded vendor hall, with a little something for everyone!

Online registration begins on Saturday, February 21st, and vendor registration forms are available now.

As the event director, I would like to personally join Director Vallio and everyone in the Pacific division in thanking the members of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club for their years of service in putting on a top notch convention, and for their help with this transition. We will look forward to seeing everyone this may for what could prove to be the best convention this side of Dayton!

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno.

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The Combined Emcommwest 09 and Pacificon 09 will take place on May 1st to the 3rs at the Circus- Circus Hotel and Casino in Reno, Nevada. More information is on-line at www.emcommwest.org. (KQ6FM, ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: SPEAKERS NEEDED FOR HAMVENTION TOWN MEETING

If you have ever dreamed of being a speaker at the famed Dayton Hamvention, here's your chance to make that dream come true.

Each year Amateur Radio Newsline produces and hosts the Ham Radio Town Meeting at Hamvention. This year we plan to explore how of becoming a ham as a teen or pre-teen has influenced ones adult career. And while many of the speakers slots have already been filled we are still looking for a few more folks wanting to share the story of how ham radio helped them decide what to do in life. We especially are looking for those who are involved in medicine, education and the performing arts but we will give consideration to anyone who would be interested in speaking.

OK. There are a few caveats. First off, you are own your own as far as travel and accommodations. The Hamvention no longer pays the expenses for speakers. Also, you will only get 10 minutes to tell your story after which you will be expected to answer questions from the audience at the Hara Arena and those on-line in their homes.

This years Ham Radio Town Meeting takes place on Saturday, May 16th at the Dayton Hamvention. If you are interested in being a presenter please e-mail us an outline of your proposed presentation to newsline@arnewsline.org.

Oh yes. Please be sure to include your phone number and other contact information. We will look over all submissions and get back to you if what you have to say fits with the goal of this years Hamvention Ham Radio Town Meeting. We look forward to hearing from you. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: IARU ELECTS NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Some names in the news. First is Timothy S. Ellam, who holds the calls VE6SH and G4HUA and who is the new President of the International Amateur Radio Union. Ellam replaces former ARRL president Larry Price, W4RA, who has served as IARU President since 1998 and has decided to retire at the end of his current term in May.

Ellam is a long time Canadian radio amateur. He lives in Calgary, Alberta, and until now has served as Vice President of the IARU.

Elected as the new IARU Vice President is Ole Garpestad, LA2RR. Garpestad, a resident of Oslo, Norway. He is presently President of the IARU Region 1. Both men will serve a five year term beginning on May 9th. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: EI3IO JOINS IARU EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMITTEE

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society or IRTS says that Dave Court, EI3IO, has been invited to join the International Amateur Radio Union's Region 1 External Relations Committee as an expert adviser. The External Relations Committee is the International Amateur Radio Union's Region 1 interface with the CEPT and other radio regulatory bodies on matters of importance to the interests of the amateur service such as spectrum requirements and licensing. The IRTS says that it knows that Court's experience and advice will be of great assistance to furthering the work of the External Relations Committee in Region 1 of the IARU. (IRTS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: AMSAT ANNOUNCES BEST FIST OF SKN ON OSCAR

And some callsigns in the news. These are the two dozen hams that each received at least one Best Fist nomination from someone the stations worked during Straight Key Night on OSCAR 2009.

The list is to long to mention each call here. AMSAT says that thanks in large part to the popularity of the AO-51 ham satellite, that there were a record 24 Best Fist winners this year. Participation outside North America was especially high, especially in Asia. (ANS)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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WITH ARNEWSLINE: SOME THANK-YOU'S FOR MAY 2008

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank you's for our listeners whose donations keep these newscasts coming your way, here's our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

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In the month of May 2008 we heard from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association; William Smith, W7GHT in Boise, ID; Gregory Hayes, Rick Rau,

KO6FR, and the Silverado Amateur Radio Society in Napa, CA; Nate Brightman, K6OSC, in Long Beach; Brad Berryhill, WA6JJB in Anaheim Hills; Scott Dicks, KF6PIH in Los Angeles. Lastly, our incredible friends at the Anchorage ARC, who always seem to time it correctly to pull our hand away from grabbing the anode of the final tube.

Also, regular contributors Benton Bonney, Joseph Bartzi, Jr., William Walters, and Stephen Perluss and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association.

Next time we will acknowledge all of our PayPal contributors from May 2008. Just a reminder to you- if you do use our incredibly easy link to PayPal from our website at arnewsline.org, be sure to include your callsign in the memo field, so that we can include it on the air. Or you can also contribute at our regular support fund address given at the end of this broadcast.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and we thank you for listening, and for your support.
--

More with Andy in future Newsline reports. (Newsline Support Fund)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: CANCER REAEARCHER JOHN KANZIUS, K3TUP - SK.

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, back with the sad news that a ham who used his knowledge of RF garnered through amateur radio to develop a possible cure for cancer has died due to complications associated with the disease. John Kanzius, K3TUP, passed away on Wednesday morning, February 18th in a Florida hospital from pneumonia while undergoing chemotherapy for b-cell leukemia. While he had no formal medical training K3TUP was described by Discover magazine as one of the world's 50 most promising scientists. His family has been quoted as saying that his research in curing cancer will continue. John Kanzius was only age 64. Amateur Radio Newsline will have a complete profile on his life and his career next week. (ARNewsline(tm), W2VU, others)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DIGI COMM ALGORITHM MAY PREVENT DRUG INTERACTIONS

Math used in radio propagation may also help those taking multiple medications to, avoid drug interaction. David Black, KB4KCH, is in our Southeast Bureau with more:

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Researchers at the Burnham Institute for Medical Research have shown that search algorithms used in digital communications can help scientists identify effective multi-drug combinations.

Using what's known as the stack sequential algorithm that was developed for digital communications, a team of scientists searched for optimal drug

combinations. This algorithm can integrate information from different sources, including biological measurements and model simulations.

This differs from the classic systems biology approach by having search algorithms rather than explicit quantitative models as the central element. The variability of biological systems is the fundamental motivation for this strategy.

The study, led by Giovanni Paternostro and was published in the December 26, 2008, issue of P Computational Biology magazine.

This work was funded by the Ellison Medical Foundation, National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

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The number of lives that can be saved by the results of this study could be into the thousands each year. (Science OnLine, Burnham Institute)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: KAGAYUKI HAMSAT LISTENERS NEEDED TO HELP FINFD THE BIRD

Turning to ham radio from space, word that nothing has been heard from Japan's Kagayaki amateur radio satellite since it was launched last month. The bird should be transmitting a beacon on 437.375 MHz and the controllers of Kagayaki are asking anyone with the ability to monitor that frequency to do so and to report back if the satellite is heard. More information on the satellite and how you can help is on the website whose U-R-L can be found at the Kagayaki English web site at www.sorun.co.jp/e_kagayaki/top.html (JN1GKZ)

**

WORLDBEAT: TWO INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKENDS IN JUNE

The International Museums Weekend special event will be a double weekend event in 2009. Operations and will take place take place on both the 20th and 21st of June and again on the 27th and 28th . All radio amateurs are encouraged to participate in this event by setting up stations in their local museums. Full details of the event can be found on the International Museums Weekend website. Its in cyberspace at www.ukradioamateur.uk/imw (RSGB)

**

ON THE AIR: EDDYSTONE USERS GROUP TO ACTIVATE GX3EUG and GX7EUG

The Eddystone User Group will take to the air with special event calls GX3EUG and GX7EUG on Sunday March 1st from the site of the former World War 2 Royal Air Force base at Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire in the United Kingdom. This may be the last time they get to operate from the location as the site is due to be developed shortly into a vast industrial estate. Listen out for the two calls on both 80 and 40 meters and QSL as directed by the operator you make contact with. (Southgate)

**

DX

In D-X, word that SP2JMR and SP2JMB will be on the air portable 3B9 from Rodrigues Island between April 1st and the 8th. They will then be on from Mauritius between April 9th and the 17th. Activity is expected to be on all bands using CW and SSB. QSL as directed by the operators on the air.

A group of German operators will be active as CT9L March 7th and 8th during the ARRL DX SSB Contest. QSL via DJ6QT. Outside the contest period the operators will probably sign their own home callsigns portable CT3. For those contacts QSL as directed on the air.

A team of nine New Zealand operators will be activating Chatham Island in March. The team leaders are ZL2AL and ZL2AAA. ZL3JT in Christchurch is the designated pilot station for the operation. Look for operations on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY. Although ZL7 is not particularly rare it still is in the top 100 needed for DXCC. As such it still generates quite a bit of activity on the bands.

Lastly, members of the HA5KHC high school radio club in Budapest are active through March 31st as HA130HALLO. The unique callsign is on the air to celebrate the 130th anniversary of first appearance of the telephone in Hungary. Operations are to be on all bands mainly using CW, but theres is said to be some activity on SSB, PSK and RTTY. QSL via HA5KHC via the bureau. No electronic QSL's are being accepted by this operation.

Above from various DX news sources.

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THAT FINAL ITEM: EMCOMM HAMSTER POWER

And finally this week, hams involved in future emergency communications set-ups where no form of power is available might want to plan on bringing some hamsters along. Yes, we said hamsters. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the rest of the story:

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Researchers at the Georgia Institute of Technology are, indeed, looking at hamsters as subjects capable of producing electricity by wearing a power-generating jacket - if you will - that responds to the animal's movements.

Wait! Don't tune us out yet.

This is real.

And, in fact, it's research supported by your tax dollars courtesy of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency - also known as DARPA, the Department of Energy, and the Air Force.

According to the online news service, Science Daily, at the heart of the experiment is use of nanotechnology to harness this new source of energy.

The researchers claim that they can convert any mechanical disturbance or even irregular biomechanical energy into electricity.

Let's see, so that means a little hamster, fitted with one of those special jackets (wonder how they keep the darn things on) runs on a wheel in his cage and produces small amounts of electricity. Maybe enough to spark something.. hmm.

Well, that's as far as I'm going to go as far on this science lesson.

Oh, wait, there's more!

The researchers say that even tapping on your Blackberry or cell phone key pad can produce small amounts of electricity.

Does that mean I have to put one of those funny nano jackets on my finger?

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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The bottom line: Those furry little creatures that some kids have as pets may one day be the answer to all of our emergency communications power needs. Then again maybe not. (Adapted from Science Daily)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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43. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 7 (Friday, February 20, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-20 21:00:27 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090220205028.52DFF316F9@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2153
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 7
February 20, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Hams in Australia Assist with Massive Bushfires
* + Hams Can Still Help with Digital TV (DTV) Conversion
* + "The Doctor Is IN" the ARRL Letter
* + World Amateur Radio Day to Recognize Amateur Radio's Role in
Disaster Communications
* + John Kanzius, K3TUP (SK)
* + Dieter Schliemann, KX4Y (SK)
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Get Ready for the ARRL International DX CW Contest this Weekend

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> HAMS IN AUSTRALIA ASSIST WITH MASSIVE BUSHFIRES

In the Australian state of Victoria, Amateur Radio operators have been
activated to provide communications links into towns that have had their
normal communications destroyed by the bushfires that have decimated the
state. Members of the Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network in
Victoria (WICEN (Vic)) <http://www.vic.wicen.org.au/> -- Australia's
version of ARES -- were activated on February 8, with members being
deployed to areas with loss of power and other facilities.

According to the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA)
<http://www.wia.org.au/> -- that country's IARU Member-Society --
authorities and resources in Victoria have been "stretched to the
limit." WICEN has been on high alert since the fires started on January
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28. On February 11, WICEN (Vic) Secretary Mark Dods, VK3XMU, said, "It now appears that WICEN's role in this emergency is going to be a long hard marathon over an extended period."

The fires -- some of which are believed to have been deliberately set, while at least one fire began due to a lightning strike -- have so far claimed 201 lives, including one firefighter; local police say they do not expect the death toll to go much higher. Covering more than 1100 square miles, the fires have destroyed more than 1800 homes; officials estimate at least 7500 people are now homeless due to the fires. Victoria Premier John Brumby, in speaking about the bushfires, said, "Out there, it is hell on earth" <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/index.php?option=com_mymedia&Itemid=29%C3%83%C2%A2%C3%82%C5%92%C3%82%C2%A9=en&media_id=364&task=text>.

On February 12, Dods said that "WICEN was given the task of establishing a link between Narbethong and the Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre in Alexandra. Initially, the Narbethong-Alexandra link will be on HF. The two WICEN operators that were on standby for deployment to Buxton have been dispatched to Alexandra to join a column that will be moving down the Maroondah Highway to Narbethong this afternoon. An extra WICEN operator is being deployed to the Alexandra MECC to assist the operator already there with expected extra traffic from Narbethong Three WICEN operators are now working 8 hour shifts at the Alexandra Incident Command Centre (ICC), operating CFA/DSE radios. We will be providing operators for this task until further notice."

Dods said hams would make "temporary repairs" to VK3RTN, the 6 meter repeater on Mt Gordon that suffered damage during the fire, making it usable until they can get and install a new repeater. The Mt Gordon repeater is being used as a link between Alexandra and Narbethong. The WICEN station in Narbethong closed Saturday, February 14. "The Alexandra WICEN station will continue to operate after the closure of Narbethong," Dods said. "Their role includes guiding relief operators into the town, maintaining an HF link to Melbourne and a listening watch. Operators in the Alexandra ICC have reported increased radio traffic overnight and emphasised the need for concise, prompt and accurate handling of the traffic despite the sometimes tense environment."

Dods recounted that there was what he called a "flurry of activity" on the evening of February 14: "WICEN received a request from DSE [Department of Sustainability and Environment] to provide operators at Woori Yallock ICC. We were asked to cover the night shift last night and the next four nights. Being a Saturday night, it was difficult to contact operators with many being not at home, and others having their mobile phones diverted to voice mail. Two operators agreed to be deployed at short notice, however. They travelled to Woori Yallock only to find that there had been an administrative foul-up and that they were not required. Those operators have returned home with my thanks and apologies. This false start at Woori Yallock does give us a 'heads up' that DSE and CFA [Country Fire Authority] resources may be beginning to

stretch thin, and lead to more ICC deployments."

On February 17, Dods said that two WICEN operators will be going to "McAdam's Hill, east of Lake Mountain, to provide health and welfare communications for the firefighters at a Base Camp being set up there. Initially, the primary operating frequency will be 3.6 MHz, so there may well be a need for stations monitoring that frequency to relay traffic. Deployment of a portable 2m repeater to support the McAdam's Hill station is under consideration."

The WICEN HF Net continues to operate on 3.6 MHz at 1000 and 2130 hours (UTC + 11) daily. "As well as keeping a check on the welfare of operators in the field, the Net is being used to pass updated activation information, and also for amateurs in remote areas of the state to check their communications," Dods said. "It is reassuring to hear stations from all over the state and interstate on the Net, demonstrating that we can, if necessary, establish communications independent of hilltop infrastructure. It has been very handy to have other amateurs monitoring 3.6 MHz when they can to relay when fading occurs. Many thanks to those operators who have relayed traffic so far."

Dennis Dura, K2DCD, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager said: "The work the Australian hams have been doing and the issues WICEN have been facing are not unlike what ARES personnel encounter here. The long hours and duration of the disaster response and the dwindling availability of amateur volunteers take a toll. Yet Amateur Radio still is able to complete the mission. The flexibility we bring is key to meeting the emergency communications needs of those the amateur community serves. Our hearts go out to all those that have lost loved ones and whose lives have been forever changed by these fires. Our colleagues in WICEN make the Amateur Radio community proud in the work they are performing in these very difficult conditions."

==> HAMS CAN STILL HELP WITH DIGITAL TV (DTV) CONVERSION

Even though the mandatory conversion date for television stations to switch from analog signals to digital has been delayed by four months <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-9A1.pdf>, hams are still assisting the FCC and their communities by providing technical support to those who need assistance <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/10/10499/>. Although many TV stations won't turn off their analog signals until the new deadline, the law allows stations to apply to switch on the original date -- February 17 -- or any time before June 12.

According to the FCC, there are nearly 1800 full-power televisions stations in the US. Of these, the FCC said that "220 will have terminated their analog signals before Tuesday [February 17] and another 421 will terminate their analog signals on Tuesday [February 17] before 11:59 PM, for a total of 641 stations, or about 36 percent of all full-power stations nationwide." The FCC has posted a list of stations making the conversion on or before February 17 on their Web site

<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A2.pdf>.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said he has been getting e-mails and phone calls from Amateur Radio operators concerning the digital TV conversion, now set to take place on Friday, June 12. "People are asking what's happening with the DTV conversion -- especially now that it's been delayed -- and wondering what we as hams can do to help," he said. "There has been considerable confusion concerning the extension of the date, but the role of Amateur Radio is simply to be helpful to the people in our communities."

Pitts advises those hams that are helping to provide technical educational assistance keep in mind the following troubleshooting pointers, provided by the FCC:

* Check Your Connections
Check that your digital-to-analog converter box (or digital television) is connected properly. Make sure that your antenna is connected to the antenna input of your digital-to-analog converter box (or digital television). If you are using a digital-to-analog converter box, ensure that the antenna output of the converter box is connected to the antenna input of your analog TV. If you are unsure of the proper connections, refer to your owners manual.

Make sure that your components are plugged in and turned on.
If using a digital-to-analog converter box, tune your analog TV to channel 3. You should see a set-up menu or picture on your screen. If you do not see this, re-check your connections.

* Perform a Channel Scan
Digital-to-analog converter boxes (and digital televisions) have a button -- usually on the remote control -- that is labeled "Set-up" or "Menu" or some similar term. Press that button to access the set-up menu. Using the directional arrow buttons on your remote, scroll to the option that allows you to perform a "channel scan." The channel scan will search for digital broadcast channels that are available in your area. If you are unsure how to do a channel scan, please refer to the owners manual for your converter box or digital television (whichever applies).

Once the channel scan is complete, you will be able to tune to the digital channels received by your antenna.

* Adjust Your Antenna
As many hams know, small adjustments to an antenna can make a big difference; digital TV is no exception. If you have an indoor antenna, try elevating it and moving it closer to an exterior wall of your home. After adjusting your antenna, perform another channel scan to see if your reception has improved.

While adjusting your antenna, it may be helpful to access the "Signal strength meter" on your converter box or digital television set to determine whether your adjustments are improving the signals' strength.

You can probably find your signal strength meter via the "Menu" function on your remote control, and your owners manual will provide detailed information on how to perform this function. Remember to do another channel scan after you have adjusted your antenna.

Make sure that you are using an antenna that covers both the UHF and VHF bands and that is connected properly (depending on what channels are in use in your area).

Late last year, the FCC requested assistance from the ARRL in providing educational support to local communities regarding the digital TV conversion.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions," said George Dillon, FCC Deputy Bureau Chief for Field Operations (now retired). "The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow [the FCC] to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband. Our goal is to engage the amateur community on a cooperative basis to help with the DTV outreach and to educate consumers."

The FCC said that it is seeking to ensure that even where all or most stations in a market are terminating analog service, consumers who are unprepared for the switch will continue to have access to critical local news and emergency information. In a statement released by the FCC, the Commission "examined each market in which stations planned to end analog service to try to ensure that at least one affiliate of the four major networks -- ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC -- would continue broadcasting in analog after February 17. Many had such a station, but in those instances in which there would be no top-four affiliate remaining in a market, the FCC attempted to ensure that analog local news and emergency information would remain available -- generally through what is being called 'enhanced analog nightlight' service. Under 'enhanced analog nightlight,' the top-four affiliates must keep at least one analog signal on the air to provide programming that includes, at a minimum, local news and emergency information" <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288530A1.pdf>.

FCC Acting Chairman Michael Copps said that the Commission is "trying to make the best of a difficult situation. While this staggered transition is confusing and disruptive for some consumers, the confusion and disruption would have been far worse had we gone ahead with a nationwide transition on [February 17]."

For more information on the conversion to digital television, please see the DTV Conversion Web site <http://www.dtv.gov/>.

==> "THE DOCTOR IS IN" THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Scott McCann, W3MEO, of Queenstown, Maryland, asks: I am fairly new to SSB and CW on VHF and was surprised during the September ARRL VHF contest to have worked W2SZ, the RPI Amateur Radio Club station on Mt Greylock in Massachusetts. I was running 2 W CW to a homebrew four element beam 20 feet off the ground. The boys on the mountain were running a lot bigger station than I was.

This station was well over the horizon. I wonder what propagation mode supports this beyond line-of-sight (LOS) communication? I worked several other stations that were also well over the horizon.

The Doctor Answers -- The propagation mode is most likely troposcatter, in which VHF signals are scattered by the troposphere, the lowest region of our atmosphere extending about 7 miles to the border with the stratosphere. Troposcatter is in common use by the military and some commercial users for paths up to a few hundred miles -- generally using high power and high gain antennas.

Troposcatter is also the mode that results in a commonly occurring type of long distance TV transmission. W2SZ -- the Amateur Radio club at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York -- uses big power and antennas from a fantastic location, making this mode a common occurrence. You can find out more about troposcatter and the other propagation modes supported by the troposphere at this Web site <www.oe1cwj.com/literature/troposcatter.htm>.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org>; or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> WORLD AMATEUR RADIO DAY TO RECOGNIZE AMATEUR RADIO'S ROLE IN DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS

Each year on April 18, radio amateurs celebrate World Amateur Radio Day. On that day in 1925, 84 years ago, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) was founded <http://www.iaru.org/>. In 2009, the theme of the event is Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication.

"It is not by coincidence that last year's meeting of the IARU Administrative Council (AC) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/26/10186/?nc=1> chose this subject at this time," said IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communication Hans Zimmermann, F5VKP/HB9AQS. "While the Amateur Radio Service has traditionally made its contributions to emergency and disaster response ever since its very beginnings almost 100 years ago, this role has gained a lot of importance just in the recent past."

Citing the fact that natural, as well as manmade disasters are on the rise, Zimmermann pointed out that today's modern communication technologies are "increasingly complex, infrastructure-dependent and therefore also increasingly vulnerable. The Amateur Radio Service puts two equally valuable assets at its disposal for emergency and disaster prevention, preparedness and response: A large number of very flexible and mostly infrastructure-independent, local, national, regional and global networks, and a large number of skilled operators, who know how to communicate with often very limited means and to establish communications even under the most difficult circumstances."

Zimmermann said that the tools available to Amateur Radio operators "range from the most robust means such as battery-operated stations operating in Morse code, to links through Amateur Radio satellites and interconnectivity with the Internet, in voice, text, image and data modes. They range from local VHF networks of fixed, mobile and portable stations to shortwave networks that span the globe. All these networks are operated on a daily basis by men and women who are thoroughly familiar with their technology and their intricacies."

"Telecommunications have become a commodity that society takes for granted," Zimmermann stated, adding that "the sudden loss of that service is often felt in a similar way to the loss of shelter, food and medical support. When disasters occur in regions that do not have good coverage by public networks -- or when existing communications infrastructures have just been disrupted or destroyed by such events -- the Amateur Radio Service comes to the rescue. Amateur Radio operators provide communications for the rescuers and relief workers and their organizations and they help to provide communications for those affected by a disaster."

Zimmermann continued: "In fact, contributions to emergency and disaster relief are a major argument for the preservation and the extension of the privileges the Amateur Radio Service enjoys in international and national regulations. This is one of the reasons why more and more Amateur Radio operators -- through their clubs and their national societies -- prepare very seriously for their role in emergencies; however, their skills can be put to use only if they are known by other first responders. Effective response to emergencies can only occur with the work of volunteers in all the various fields, from search and rescue to medical assistance and those who can provide food and shelter. Communication skills are a new, but equally vital commodity."

==> JOHN KANZIUS, K3TUP (SK)

John Kanzius, K3TUP, of Erie, Pennsylvania, passed away February 18 in Florida from pneumonia. He was 64. Kanzius was best known for his research into finding a cure for cancer using radio waves, specifically 13.56 MHz.

In 1966 at age 22, Kanzius came to Erie, Pennsylvania to work for JET Broadcasting. After 24 years as a broadcast engineer, he was appointed vice president and general manager of the company in 1980. After

retiring, Kanzius was diagnosed with leukemia in 2002. He summarized his chemotherapy in a February 2008 article in QST as "Hoping we kill the cancer before we kill the person"<http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=109317&pub=qst>. In October 2003 -- thinking there had to be a better treatment -- Kanzius had the idea to kill the cancer cell with radio waves, not a new idea. But Kanzius went a bit further: Instead of using needles, as was currently used, why not "trick" the cancer cells into absorbing a metal target -- sent by RF -- into the inside of the cancer cells, leaving the healthy cells alone?

In 2005, Kanzius teamed up with cancer researchers at M. D. Anderson (part of the University of Texas health system in Houston) and Rice University (also in Houston). Using nanoparticles -- metallic objects measured in billionths of an inch -- heated by RF using a machine that Kanzius invented, the researchers were impressed: "The research scientists at Rice were stunned to see that my device could heat nanoparticles at the 13.56 MHz frequency," Kanzius said.

Kanzius credited his father for his inspiration: "Trying to build an array that would heat particles one billionth of a meter in length was challenging. But building equipment all of my life was inspired by my dad, W3NRE, who was licensed in 1934."

Kanzius told ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, that if it were not for his Amateur Radio background, "and all the days of experimentation to improve my station, this new procedure for treating cancer, which continues to show such promising results, would probably not be on the cutting edge at the largest cancer center in the world [M. D. Anderson]."

But Kanzius did more than just try to find a cure for cancer. In 1991, he was Top of Honor Roll in the ARRL DXCC program; at his death, he had 347 countries confirmed. In the March/April 1987 issue of NCJ, Tim Duffy, K3LR, described K3TUP as "a relatively new contest call," but said Kanzius had been DXing for many years: "As he has caught the contest bug, John has taken a station which was designed for busting DX pileups and converted it over to have the flexibility and brute force required to compete in Multi-Single contesting." Duffy described the station as sitting "situated on a high ridge that overlooks Lake Erie. The station is well secluded from city-type radio noise and the rural setting allows John to run several temporary beverages for low band receiving." Both Duffy and Randy Thompson, K5ZD, have operated from Kanzius's station.

Pitts recalled that in 2007, he received an e-mail from a ham, asking if he was aware of the research Kanzius was attempting: "I looked at the attached video clip and I was skeptical. But I became more curious about this kitchen table tinkerer-ham and investigated the claims. I learned two major things: First, this was not a harebrained scheme -- it really worked (!), and -- even more important for me -- John Kanzius was a true gentleman. Bright, polite and enthusiastic without being overbearing, I

liked him. Over the next months as I wrote the QST article about his work, I came to know him and his true desire to help other cancer victims. Since then, we stayed in touch by phone and e-mail. I enjoyed his delight as each step in the process of bringing his machine and concept to human use was proven by M. D. Anderson and other cancer research facilities. Some people just make your world better by being there. John was one of those people. Though I never met him in person, it was always good to hear from him and I enjoyed the friendship. Losing him makes the world a little colder. I will miss him."

Kanzius is survived by his wife Marianne, two daughters -- Sherry Kanzius and Toni Palmer -- and two grandchildren. Calling hours are Sunday, February 22 from 2-5 PM and 7-9 PM at the Duskas-Martin Funeral Home <http://www.dusckasmartinfuneralhome.com/>, 4216 Sterrettania Rd, Erie, Pennsylvania. A funeral service is planned for 10:30 AM on Monday, February 23 at the Episcopal Cathedral of St Paul <http://www.cathedralofstpaul.org/>, also in Erie. Memorial contributions may be made to the John Kaznius Research Fund <http://www.kanziuscancerresearch.org/>, Palace Business Center, 915 State St, Erie, PA 16501.

==> DIETER SCHLIEMANN, KX4Y (SK)

Dieter Schliemann, KX4Y, of Scottsboro, Alabama, passed away February 9 after a battle with cancer. He was 68. According to Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> International Chairman Frank H. Bauer, KA3HDO, Schliemann was instrumental in leading and supporting many key activities in AMSAT <http://www.amsat.org> and on the ARISS program. "Those that knew Dieter recognized that he was a 'class act,'" Bauer said, "a great gentleman and colleague who will be sorely missed by all."

Schliemann, an ARRL Life Member, was involved with ARISS, leading the school contact IRLP/EchoLink initiative. Through this Amateur Radio VOIP system, Bauer said Schliemann and his team "substantially extended our reach of the school contacts. And through his efforts, tens of thousands of school students and ham radio operators, worldwide, could listen to other school contacts, enhancing education and giving all a better understanding of what it is like to live and work on ISS. Dieter's diplomacy, teambuilding skills and attention to the details were impeccable and were well respected within the team. He rose to the challenge when I asked him to lead the IRLP/EchoLink team. At the time, there were strong, divergent opinions on the use of IRLP and EchoLink on ARISS. He singlehandedly developed a cohesive team that is producing great results and is enjoying working together."

Bauer said that Schliemann had been fighting cancer for a few years: "A month ago, all of us thought he was on the road to recovery. Unfortunately, that did not come to pass. Through it all, Dieter remained the gentle, caring person that we all have grown to love. During his illness, he remained dedicated to his AMSAT and ARISS causes and responsibilities. When he received the surprising news from the

doctors that he had only two weeks to live and despite being weak from a long hospitalization, Dieter got on e-mail and worked on a transition plan to ensure that IRLP/EchoLink capabilities on ARISS continues. What a great, compassionate, loving human being."

Rosalie White, K1STO, fondly remembered Schliemann. "As team members reported on what a great person Dieter was, and the ways he had helped ARISS, more and more came to light regarding so many things he had accomplished without many others knowing," she said. "He shunned the spotlight, yet he quietly took the initiative, never shying away from solving problems. The ARISS Team will miss Dieter terribly -- a wonderful friend and dedicated volunteer."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Love comforteth like sunshine after rain" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We saw a sunspot on February 11-13, then it was gone. Typical of sunspots recently, it was only seen briefly; this one was a relic of Solar Cycle 23, according to its magnetic signature. For at least a couple of years now, we've been expecting Solar Cycle 23 to bottom out and new Solar Cycle 24 spots to emerge, but the sunspot minimum drags on. Most projections are based on past cycle activity, so according to the timing of past solar minimums, we keep thinking surely soon there will be an explosion of new solar activity, but the Sun seems to tease us. Sunspot numbers for February 12-18 were 11, 11, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 3.1. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.7, 70.1, 70.1, 69.6, 69.5, 70.6 and 69.8 with a mean of 69.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 3, 14, 10, 3, 1 and 2 with a mean of 5.3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 1, 2, 9, 6, 2, 1 and 1 with a mean of 3.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Shakespeare's "Venus and Adonis" <http://www.shakespeare-w.com/english/shakespeare/w_venus.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the ARRL International DX Contest (CW) is on February 21-22. The AM QSO Party and the REF Contest are also February 21-22. Next week, the Russian WW PSK Contest is on February 27-28. Look for the UBA Contest (CW), Mississippi QSO Party, North American QSO Party (RTTY), CQ WW 160 Meter Contest (SSB) and the CQC Winter QSO Party to be on the air February 28-March 1. The High Speed CW Contest is March 1. The North Carolina QSO Party and DARC 10 Meter Digital "Corona" are both March 1-2. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday March 8, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March 20, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2, Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Get Ready for the ARRL International DX CW Contest this Weekend: This weekend will be a busy one for CW operators as the 2009 ARRL International CW DX Contest takes center stage. First started in 1929 as the ARRL International Relay Party, the ARRL DX CW Contest is the longest running contest in Amateur Radio. Stations from all around the world -- from Australia to Zimbabwe -- should be active for this great event that takes place on 160-10 meters (no contest QSOs are permitted on 12, 17, 30 or 60 meters). Stations in the US and Canada work only DX stations (Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX for this contest), and DX stations only work the US and Canada. DX stations will be trying to make as many QSOs with all US states and Canadian provinces as they can. The contest exchange is simple -- US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and the amount of power with which they are transmitting. The ARRL International CW DX Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, February 21 through 2359 UTC Sunday, February 22, 2009. Complete rules and forms can be found on the ARRL Contest Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>. Electronic logs should be e-mailed <DXCW@arrl.org>; paper logs can be sent to ARRL DX CW Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Logs sent via postal mail must be postmarked no later than 2359 UTC Monday, March 23, 2009.

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The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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44. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-22 07:00:06 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1235286001@panix.com>
Source record: 2154
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

45. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-22 07:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1235286300@panix.com>
Source record: 2155
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

46. CC&R's question

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-27 02:06:20 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <df3796bd-fc16-468e-bbf7-ae2de3a93716@v39g2000yqm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2156

Hi,

I happened to be doing a bit of research in an effort to find out exactly what the CC&R's said about antennas for my house. I used to have a 75M inverted-V dipole in my back yard, but the association sent me a letter that said it had to come down because it was not allowed. I just took their word for it at the time because I didn't have a copy of the restrictions. Since then I've struggled to get something in my attic to work, with very little success.

Deed Restrictions must be "recorded" by the county clerk, just like liens and deeds, so I started to search the online records provided by my county but because restrictions are not filed on each lot, when I searched for them on my lot I didn't find them. Apparently they file them on the whole subdivision at once, so the search on my lot came up empty. What to do now?

Well, on a hunch, I did a search using the developer's name within a year of when my house was built and sold and I finally found the restrictions but I also found something else.

It seems that the developer actually sold the house and lot I own BEFORE they filed the restrictions on the deeds. In this case they sold my house to the original owner and signed the warranty deed on March 12th but didn't sign the deed restrictions until the 31st of the same year. Both documents where recorded by the clerk on the same day with the warranty deed being recorded first.

Am I totally off base here to think that because the title of the property was sold by the developer before the deed restrictions where in force that the developer didn't have the right to place restrictions on my lot? Or am I just nuts?

-= bob =-

47. Re: CC&R's question

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-27 07:29:24 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <p3neq4ptgku4aoak1amu9tv50dse7p5jj3@4ax.com>
Source record: 2157

On Thu, 26 Feb 2009 21:06:20 EST, KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote:

>Hi,
>
>I happened to be doing a bit of research in an effort to find out
>exactly what the CC&R's said about antennas for my house. I used to
>have a 75M inverted-V dipole in my back yard, but the association sent
>me a letter that said it had to come down because it was not allowed.
>I just took their word for it at the time because I didn't have a copy
>of the restrictions. Since then I've struggled to get something in my
>attic to work, with very little success.
>
>Deed Restrictions must be "recorded" by the county clerk, just like
>liens and deeds, so I started to search the online records provided by
>my county but because restrictions are not filed on each lot, when I
>searched for them on my lot I didn't find them. Apparently they file
>them on the whole subdivision at once, so the search on my lot came up
>empty. What to do now?
>
>Well, on a hunch, I did a search using the developer's name within a
>year of when my house was built and sold and I finally found the
>restrictions but I also found something else.
>
>It seems that the developer actually sold the house and lot I own
>BEFORE they filed the restrictions on the deeds. In this case they
>sold my house to the original owner and signed the warranty deed on
>March 12th but didn't sign the deed restrictions until the 31st of the
>same year. Both documents where recorded by the clerk on the same day
>with the warranty deed being recorded first.
>
>Am I totally off base here to think that because the title of the
>property was sold by the developer before the deed restrictions where
>in force that the developer didn't have the right to place
>restrictions on my lot? Or am I just nuts?

Bob,

I am not a lawyer, and this is not to be construed as legal advice.

What about your deed? Does it mention the CC&R's? If not, then you
have a clear case that the CC&R's don't apply to you. But you might
have to go to cour, or at least hire a real-estste lawyer, to convince
the association of this.

If you deed does mention the CC&R's, then it is a bit murkier. It
would depend upon whether your state requires that CC&R's be recorded

before the deed. Seek competent legal council.

Dick, AC7EL

48. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1646 - February 27 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-27 14:20:42 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090226234028.01630618@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2158
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1646 - February 27 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1646 with a release date of Friday, February 27th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. K5D goes QRT after more than 100,000 QSO's from Desecheo Island; ham radio monitoring stations prepare for big changes on 40 meters, a third conviction in the murder at sea of two hams and celebrating the life and legacy of John Kanzius, K3TUP. A very special report on a very special ham by Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1646 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

DX NEWS: K5D BREAKS 100,000 QSO BEFORE GOING QRT

The Desecheo Island K5D team says that it broke the 100,000 contact mark before going QRT. This event took place at 04:14 UTC on February 23rd when K5D made contact on 40 meter C-W with Zdravko Kalaba - Kale, E77U, who is located in Bosnia Herzegovenia. And in a satellite telephone interview with Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC, team co-leader Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said that the propagation seemed to be with them all the way:

--

"The propagation has been very good except for the very high bands. We have worked quite a few stations on 6 meters but most of that has been meteor scatter.

"10 and 12 meters have been very sketchy. We've made few contacts on 10 and 12. 15 and the bands down below have really opened up and we've made some really good contacts.

"The fortunate thing is that with our antenna spacing we have been able to work two and sometimes even three modes on any given band, even with high power. So we have been able to take advantage to some really good band openings to our target areas."

--

The DXpedition a made its first satellite contact on Friday, February 20th with Andrew Glassbrenner, KO4MA, in New Port Richey, Florida. That QSO was conducted at 20:14 UTC through the SO-50 ham radio bird.

As the operation began winding down the team modified the radio schedule to try to pick up those areas of the world that have been obscured by the huge pileups from the population centers of in North America, Japan and Europe. By the terms of the groups Special Use Permit the operators had to vacate the island no later than the February 26th.

The last night on the air saw three stations stations still in operation emphasizing 80, 40 and 30 meter operation. They departed Desecheo at sunrise on the 26th. QSL's go to N2OO

The complete interview between Wolf Harranth, OE1WHC and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, is now available on the "Documentary Archive Radio Communication" KP5 special Web page at www.dokufunk.org/desecheo
(Southgate, OE1WHC, PS8RF)

**

RESTRUCTURING: GETTING READY FOR THE AN EXPANDED 40 METERS

Ham radio operators world wide are preparing for the expansion of 40 meters. This, as the date approaches where shortwave broadcast operations must vacate the spectrum from 7 point 1 to 7 point 2 MHz. Jim Linton, VK3PC, in Forrest Hill, Australia, says that hams down-under are prepared:

--

With four weeks to go before broadcast stations are due to have migrated from the band 7100-7200kHz as that band is restored to the Amateur Service, a scan watch has begun to identify stations still currently using that segment.

IARU Region 3 Monitoring Systems Coordinator, B.L. (Arasu) Manohar VU2UR has been scanning the segment.

He did this for four days recently to identify 58 broadcast transmissions, their frequencies, times and signal strengths. The broadcasters use 5kHz channel spacing.

The worthwhile yet painstaking task also notes the languages of the transmissions including Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, English, French, German, Indian, Japanese, Russian and Turkish.

Adding to the complexity of the task are jamming stations, heterodynes, low powered regional or domestic stations and many powerful broadcasters using relays to cover their audience target area.

Arasu VU2UR says similar scanning and monitoring work may be necessary in other parts of the world to get a fuller picture of broadcast activity and he's prepared to share the spreadsheet result of his work.

Mapping of broadcasters on the 40-metre band will be important should be IARU need to mount a case to fight any continued occupancy of the 7100-7200kHz after 29 March.

That is the departure date set by the World Radio Conference 2003 and coincides with the new broadcasting schedule for 2009.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

--

Again that's March 29th when, at least in theory, all shortwave broadcasting in the 7 point 1 to 7 point 2 MHz segment of 40 meters is supposed to go away. (VK3PC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: COSPAS-SARSAT GOES DIGITAL

The Cospas-Sarsat satellite based rescue radio locator system has gone digital. As of February 1st, the satellites are no longer monitoring for analog distress beacons at 121.5 and 243 MHz. All mariners, aviators and individuals who use emergency beacons on those frequencies had been previously advised to switch to the newer, digital 406 MHz frequency to be detected by the on-orbit monitoring birds.

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration claims that in 2008, beacons monitored by the Cospas-Sarsat worldwide system were responsible for almost 300 lives saved. This included 203 people rescued in 65 at-sea incidents and 12 people rescued in 7 aviation incidents.

SARSAT stands for Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking. Cospas is the Russian word for the same. The Cospas-Sarsat satellite tracking system is a joint effort of the two nations. (NOAA)

**

THE DTV TRANSITION: SOME ANALOG STATIONS FORCED TO STAY ON THE AIR

Meantime, back in the United States, not every TV station that wanted to go digital-only on Tuesday, February 17th was permitted to do. Only days prior to the then voluntary analog turn-off date the Federal Communications Commission told 123 broadcasters that were planning to stick to the original February 17th date that they will have to justify not extending their transmissions for four months.

In denying their applications to terminate analog service on February 17th, the FCC told the targeted stations that they must certify at least one in any affected market would continue to broadcast information about the transition and local news in analog for at least two months. Affected stations are in or near areas where all of the major network owned or affiliated stations has applied to turn off their analog transmissions on February 17th.

All full-power TV stations had been planning for years to turn off analog transmissions on February 17th. Congress and the president extended that date to June 12th. (Adapted from FCC release)

**

ENFORCEMENT: THIRD CONVICTION IN KA7VWJ - KA7VWK MURDERS

A jury in Santa Ana, California, has found a third defendant guilty in the murders of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK. John Fitzgerald Kennedy who is described as a former gang intervention worker for the city of Long Beach was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder in the killings of a couple tied to an anchor and thrown off their yacht. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, picks up the story from here:

--

Forty-three year old John Fitzgerald Kennedy is the third person to be convicted for the killing of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, who were murdered at sea off the Southern California coast on November 15, 2004. This, after taking men posting as prospective buyers out for a test run on their 55-foot trawler the Well Deserved.

The seven-woman, five-man jury deliberated several hours before convicting Kennedy of the two murder counts. They also found true the special circumstance allegations of multiple murder and murder for financial gain.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Kennedy. They say that he was recruited as muscle man in the killings.

Under California state law the jury that convicted Kennedy will have to decide between recommending capital punishment or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Deputy District Attorney Matt Murphy said the mastermind of the plan to steal the yacht was former child actor Skylar Deleon. Deleon has already been convicted of the murders and faces the death penalty when he is sentenced on March 20th. Deleon's former wife, Jennifer Henderson, was sentenced to life in prison without parole in October 2007 for her role in the plot. (Published news reports)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the world including the W8GK repeater serving Charleston West Virginia.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES TELECOMS FOR CPNI FORM FAILURE

Ham radio is not the only service where the Federal Communications Commission requires compliance with its rules. The agency's Enforcement Bureau has just proposed more than $12 million in fines against some 600 mostly small telecommunications companies for failing to file their annual

Customer Proprietary Network Compliance or CPNI certificates. That is a form that certifies that each business has a plan for preventing phone call data from unauthorized access and disclosure by data brokers and others.

The FCC toughened its customer proprietary network compliance rules in 2007. Based on them it fined each company up to $20,000, although it has the right to assess up to a $130,000 for each non compliant filing. In setting the fine amount the FCC said that it took into account that fact that this was the first year for compliance with the form, and the fact that most of the companies were rather small business entities. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: INDIANAPOLIS HAMS BUST COPS FOR LANGUAGE ON UNOFFICIAL CHAT CHANNEL

Hams in Indianapolis are taking credit for getting city police in that city to top using unofficial extra radios on which the cops reportedly used language that might make a sailor blush. Jack Parker, W8ISH, has the details:

--

Dozens if not hundreds of Indianapolis Metro Police Officers have been busted for using Amateur Radios illegally to rag chew while on duty. According to a report aired on an Indianapolis TV station, complaints to the FCC from local hams lead to a shake down of all Metro Police vehicles. Amateur Radio operators reported hearing foul language and improper usage of Amateur Radio frequencies by Metro Police officers.

This prompted the department to do a three-day inspection of cruisers, ordering everyone with an unlicensed radio to remove them..

Department PIO Lt. Jeff Duhamel had this to say:

--

"Apparently, there has been a problem with some language, which is a violation of the FCC regulations. The chief has decided that the officers should pull them out of their vehicles."

--

Amateur radio repeaters were ripe with reaction to News of the police radio crackdown.

--

First Ham: "They were talking on blogs like they were using ham radios like they were on ham radio frequencies. Well that wasn't the case. Still they're transmitting and talking on frequencies they are not licensed to use. It doesn't matter if they were licensed twenty years ago they are not licensed now and they should not be using them period.

Second Ham: "They are not type accepted. So they have a type acceptance problem. So far that is the only thing I've seen that's inappropriate other than the report of language which is not appropriate on any frequency."

--

Local hams are expected to monitor the success of this crackdown and report further violations.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker, W8ISH.

--

While some bloggers are advising Indianapolis hams to keep a low profile for a while others point out that the officers are the ones that are likely worried. Now they know that there are thousands of ears listening to their every word on what they thought was their unofficial chat channel. Ears with tape recorders ready to send more complaints to the FCC. (W8ISH)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HIGH TEMPERATURE CONDUCTIVITY

A new paper published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society will help to broaden our understanding of the nature of superconducting materials and of the origin of the superconductivity phenomenon in high critical temperature materials.

For those not aware, superconductors are materials that conduct electrical current with zero resistance at low temperatures. The phenomena was discovered in 1911, and the researchers in this area of solid state physics have been regular recipients of the Nobel Physics Prize.

Now, the discovery of high critical temperature superconductivity is being considered as one of the most remarkable chapters in modern science. It is being looked on as a major breakthrough in developing new technologies and compounds in solid state physics and materials science that may lead to new products not even imagined only a few years in the past. You can learn more at the U-R-L in this weeks printed Newsline report.

(DO NOT READ:
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090216092835.htm) (Science Daily)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FIRST DRM RECEIVER COMING TO THE USA

Media Network reports that a new Digital Radio Mondiale receiver designed in France may soon be coming to American shores. The Di-Wave receiver from UniWave Development SAS is expected to make its debut March 25th at the DRM General Assembly in Germany. This is an all band plus FM receiver that is Digital Radio Mondiale capable on the Shortwave, Medium Wave and Long Wave bands. It will also expected to be the first consumer level Digital

Radio Mondiale receiver authorized by the FCC for sale in the United States. (Media Network)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW LAPTOP PLATFORM FROM INTEL

Something long awaited in the world of laptop computers has finally arrived. This with word that Intel Corporation is set to launch new hardware for laptop computers. Jim Damron, N8TMW, reports:

--

The new products are a package of components including the main processor as well as all the secondary chips that add features such as the ability to connect to a wireless network.

Platforms such as this rarely grab focus outside of technical circles, but Intel is generating wider interest this time. This is because its new products are the first to use flash memory which it hopes will translate into faster performance and longer battery life.

According to market researchers the laptop and notebook computers are the fastest growing segment part of the personal computer business. Last year, worldwide shipments of desktop machines rose just over 2 percent, but sales of laptops jumped 26 percent.

I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW.

--

Most in the mobile data storage field believe that it won't be long before high speed flash memory replaces mechanical hard drives in laptop and notebook computers. (Intel release)

**

RADIO HONORS: NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2009 HORKHEIMER PRIZE\

Nominations for the 2009 Horkheimer Prize are being solicited by the German Amateur Radio Society, the DARC.

The Horkheimer prize is awarded for merit in amateur radio and to the further development of the service. Both individuals and institutions are eligible it and any member of any amateur radio society that's a member of the International Amateur Radio Union can be nominated. Letters of nomination should include the name and address of the nominator, a short description of the nominee and any other information that might be useful. The deadline for submitting nominations I March 31st. They can be sent by e-mail to darc <at> darc <dot> de

The 2009 Horkheimer prize will be presented during the opening ceremonies of HAM RADIO fair in Friedrichshafen, Germany this spring. The recipient gets a beautiful etched glass plate along with a prize of of 2,500 Euros. The money is given to further support the recipients amateur radio

related activities. (GB2RS, ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: THE 2009 NORTH DAKOTA QSO PARTY IN MARCH

The 2009 North Dakota QSO Party runs from 1700 UTC on Saturday, March 21st to 0100 UTC on Sunday, March 22nd. Operation is on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters. Stations working on the new ARRL Triple Play Award or Year of the State QSO Party Award will want to be on the air for this one. More information is on-line at k0ln.com. (Via e-mail)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: WEAK SIGNAL ON 2 METERS FROM A UK TOWER

Meantime members of the United Kingdom's Kilmarnock and Loudoun Amateur Radio Club will be active on Sunday March 1st operating with the call GB250RB. This, from Burnweil Tower in South Ayrshire. What makes this operation unique is that it will only be on VHF and possibly UHF with an emphasis on 2 meter SSB. However there is a good chance that a station will also operate the 70 centimeter band as well. (Southgate, MM0GHM)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W5GM IS NEW NORTH TEXAS SM

ARRL members in the North Texas Section have elected a new Section Manager. Jay Urish, W5GM, of Flower Mound beat out incumbent Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, of Dallas, by a vote of 740 to 678 votes. Blackwell has served as North Texas Section Manager since 2005.

In Arizona, members re-elected incumbent Tom Fagan, K7DF, of Tucson. Fagan, who has been Section Manger since 2005, received 1016 votes while challenger Robert Spencer, KE8DM, of Yuma, received only 205.

The ballots were counted and verified at ARRL Headquarters on Tuesday, February 24th. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIOSPORTS: US ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP IN JUNE

It may be cold and snowy where you are right now, but spring is not that far off. Nor is the season for master level hidden transmitter

hunting. Newsline's Joe Moell, K0OV, tells us about the upcoming direction finding championship games for the Western Hemisphere.

--

Fans of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting are getting ready for the Ninth USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding, or ARDF, which will take place June 5 through 7 near Boston. The best radio-orienteers in the country will be there, as well as some experts from around the world. That's because these national championships are being combined with the championships of IARU region 2. You don't need to be an expert, because anyone can join in the competition as a learning experience.

Site of the contests will be the Blue Hills Reservation, a 7000-acre open space that is about ten miles south of downtown Boston. This year's organizer and host is Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI. He learned the sport as a youth in his native Russia. When he got back into it here in the states six years ago, he began a streak of winning medals at every national championship.

KB1RLI says that to encourage first-timers and foreign visitors, the competition fee will be waived for persons who have never participated in the USA ARDF Championships and for persons coming from outside North America.

If you would like to take part as a competitor or a helper, point your Web browser to www.bostonardf.org for the latest information and registration forms. For more about the sporting side of radio direction finding, including rules and ideas for equipment, go to www.homingin.com. Yes that's one word: homingin.com

>From southern California, where the weather is so nice that we can practice ARDF any month of the year, this is Joe Moell K0OV, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Again that website for the New England Orienteering Club is www dot bostonardf dot org. (K0OV)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: PA ARISS CONTACT GARNERS BIG PUBLICITY

A recent contact between a school in Pennsylvania and an Astronaut ham radio operator aboard the International Space Station has garnered a lot of news coverage from the local press.

The QSO took place on Tuesday February 17th between the South Park Elementary Center in South Park, Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh native Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, who was orbiting some 200 miles above the Earth. An audience of approximately 460 including reporters from three Pittsburgh TV stations and two newspapers watched as students posed twenty questions to KE5AIT via the Maryland based K6DUE telebridge. The audio was also fed into the EchoLink AMSAT and JK1ZRW servers and received by stations in

England and the U.S..

Among the media outlets covering the event were the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review along with news crews from stations KDKA, WPXI and WTAE. The K6DUE callsign used on the telebridge belonged to the late NBC newsman Roy Neal who is considered by many to be the father of manned ham radio in space operations. (ARISS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: KIWISAT TRANSPONDER TEST TAKING PLACE

The linear flight transponder for New Zealand's planned KiwiSAT ham radio satellite is now on air in a ground simulation test from near Whangaparaoa. The transponder is connected to a pair of beam antennas that are pointing south during the on air evaluation..

The KiwiSAT transmit is reportedly running to be 2 watts peak envelope power with a beacon frequency at 145.885 MHz. The operational frequencies are 435.265 to 435.235 MHz uplink using lower sideband and a downlink of 145.850 to 145.880 MHz on upper sideband.

The transponder is of the inverting variety to compensate for orbital Doppler shift. Being a linear transponder 30 kHz wide, any mode can be used but FM is discouraged. New Zealand hams who are within range are encouraged to try out the transponder while its in ground test and on the air. (ANS)

**

DX

In D-X, W6DXO be operating portable C6A from South Andros Island between March 1st to the 7th. Activity will be holiday style operation with focus on the 30, 17 and 12 meter bands as propagation allows. His QSL Manager is KF6JOQ.

The closing date for the South African Radio League High Frequency Field Day logs to be submitted is midnight on Monday March 2nd. Logs can be sent by e-mail to hfcontests <at> netactive <dot> co <dot> za or by surface mail to SARL Box 12104, Brandhof, 9324, South Africa.

Lastly, JM1LJS and JG7PSJ will be active as JD1BLK and JD1BMH, respectively from Chichijima Island `between April 29th and May 12th. Their operation will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. QSL as directed on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: 73 TO JOHN KANZIUS, K3TUP

And finally this week we take a look back at the life of a ham who dedicated hi final days to solving the medical riddle that has eluded

medical researchers for decades. Finding a cure for cancer. Hers Mark Abramovich, NT3V

--

John Kanzius, K3TUP, will best be remembered for his cancer treatment model that used radio waves to attack the disease.

No, Kanzius wasn't a doctor or medical researcher. He was just a ham, a tinkerer, if you will.

Kanzius spent his career in television as a broadcast engineer and later a general manager in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Upon his retirement to Florida, Kanzius was diagnosed with leukemia and began chemotherapy. Friends and family say the sight of sick children with cancer prompted him to action.

He reasoned that radio waves might somehow be a way to target the cancer cells and kill them.

Kanzius hooked up with the cancer researchers at M. D. Anderson - part of Houston's University of Texas Health System and a group at Rice University to test his theories.

Kanzius built a special machine that was able to use RF at a frequency of 13.56 MHz to heat up nanoparticles - tiny metal objects measured by the billionths of an inch - which could be sent to attack the cancer.

Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the American Radio Relay League's media and public relations manager, had contact with Kanzius in recent years and was quite impressed by his ingenuity and humility.

Indeed, Pitts says Kanzius always credited his amateur radio skills and interest in the technical and home-brew projects with providing him the impetus to press on with his idea.

"We often think that that era is gone, that in a sense, everything that can be invented by the individual has been invented," Pitts says. "And, John proved that wrong.

"John was the poster child of the garage tinkerer who went and took an idea that came to him in the middle of the night and started playing with it and, dang, the thing worked!"

Pitts says Kanzius was excited about the prospects of his treatment concept.

"They were now finally getting to the place where they were about to be able to do human trials," Pitts says. "They had done a whole lot of different things in the animal trials and things had gone and had gotten the thing fast-tracked.

"And they were going to start doing some limited human trials. Now the whole process is still years in the making with all of the safeguards that have to be done with this.

"But, at this point, everything is still looking very, very good."

Pitts says Kanzius, who was losing his battle to cancer in recent weeks, had hoped to make it to see the first human trials get under way.

"One of John's biggest things is he knew that even his own thing would not be able to save himself," Pitts recalls. "He knew that but his desire as expressed to me a couple of times was that he really wanted to live long enough to see the first person cured using this process."

"There are a lot of people that would take something like this and try to commercialize it or beat their own drum or puff out their chest and say: 'Oh, look what I did, etcetera, etcetera,' Pitts continues. "John never was like that. He promoted the process, he wanted to see it go. But I encountered him and found him to be a true gentleman and the world's a little smaller without him."

During his days in Erie, Kanzius also put a station together that was masterful in busting DX pileups. During the late 1980s, he got involved in contesting and assembled a competitive multi-single contesting set-up.

In 1991, Kanzius was at the top of the Honor Roll in the ARRL's DXCC program. When he died at age 64, he had 347 countries confirmed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

John Kanzius, K3TUP, is survived by his wife Marianne, daughters Sherry Kanzius and Toni Palmer and two grandchildren. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the John Kaznius Research Fund, Palace Business Center, 915 State St, Erie, Pennsylvania 16501.

And this final note: Dr. Steven Curley of the M.D.Anderson Cancer Center speaking at K3TUP's funeral said -- and we quote: "We will complete John's work." (NT3V, ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, in Auckland, New Zealand saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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49. Re: CC&R's question

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-27 16:47:57 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <1cec3457-0151-4ead-a3dc-ac780e452371@o8g2000pre.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2159

Yes, I understand that having a lawyer is good thing in such
situations.

As I see this: The deed restrictions where filed on the whole sub-
division at one time and not on individual lots. This means that when
you do a deed search on the lot, it's history only goes back to the
point in time the lot was created. Before it was subdivided it was
part of a larger peice of property with it's own history and that
history includes the restrictions. Other lots in the subdivision don't
have a deed restriction listed either because that would require that
they get recorded for all 119 lots, one at a time. That would be
pretty expensive. They just file them on the whole tract and that
applies them to all the lots that got created from that tract.

Apparently my builder was fond of not finishing up all the required
filings to get all the restrictions in place until the first lot was
sold. I've found a number of other subdivisions that have similar
situations, where a lot was sold before the restrictions where filed.
It kind of makes sense in a way, to wait until you've actually sold
something to go though the expense of drafting and recording these
things. Why put yourself under these restrictions if you don't have
to because it's a situation that is not easily reversed once you do
it.

I'm guessing that the builder thought of this. There has to be some
other way to get the deed restrictions applied to these lots that are
sold before they get recorded for the whole subdivision. Otherwise
there are a bunch of houses paying HOA dues that don't owe them... At
least for the developer that built my house.

And I'm not trying to "get out" of the HOA and not pay dues. I'm
really looking for some leverage that I can use to get them to accept
reasonable antennas for HF operations on my property.

-= Bob =-

On Feb 27, 1:29 am, Dick Grady AC7EL <r...@richbonnie.com> wrote:
> On Thu, 26 Feb 2009 21:06:20 EST, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> >Hi,
>
> >I happened to be doing a bit of research in an effort to find out
> >exactly what the CC&R's said about antennas for my house. I used to
> >have a 75M inverted-V dipole in my back yard, but the association sent
> >me a letter that said it had to come down because it was not allowed.
> >I just took their word for it at the time because I didn't have a copy
> >of the restrictions. Since then I've struggled to get something in my

> >attic to work, with very little success.
>
> >Deed Restrictions must be "recorded" by the county clerk, just like
> >liens and deeds, so I started to search the online records provided by
> >my county but because restrictions are not filed on each lot, when I
> >searched for them on my lot I didn't find them. Apparently they file
> >them on the whole subdivision at once, so the search on my lot came up
> >empty. What to do now?
>
> >Well, on a hunch, I did a search using the developer's name within a
> >year of when my house was built and sold and I finally found the
> >restrictions but I also found something else.
>
> >It seems that the developer actually sold the house and lot I own
> >BEFORE they filed the restrictions on the deeds. In this case they
> >sold my house to the original owner and signed the warranty deed on
> >March 12th but didn't sign the deed restrictions until the 31st of the
> >same year. Both documents where recorded by the clerk on the same day
> >with the warranty deed being recorded first.
>
> >Am I totally off base here to think that because the title of the
> >property was sold by the developer before the deed restrictions where
> >in force that the developer didn't have the right to place
> >restrictions on my lot? Or am I just nuts?
>
> Bob,
>
> I am not a lawyer, and this is not to be construed as legal advice.
>
> What about your deed? Does it mention the CC&R's? If not, then you
> have a clear case that the CC&R's don't apply to you. But you might
> have to go to cour, or at least hire a real-estste lawyer, to convince
> the association of this.
>
> If you deed does mention the CC&R's, then it is a bit murkier. It
> would depend upon whether your state requires that CC&R's be recorded
> before the deed. Seek competent legal council.
>
> Dick, AC7EL- Hide quoted text -
>
> - Show quoted text -

50. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 8 (Friday, February 27, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-27 20:04:53 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090227200426.51CD231DA1@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2160
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 8
February 27, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL National Convention to Feature Richard Garriott, W5KWQ
* + BSA Updates Radio Merit Badge Requirements
* + ARRL DX Phone Contest Brings DX in Full Force to HF Bands
* + QEX: The March/April 2009 Issue
* + Train the Trainers Course Debuts at Orlando HamCation
* + 2009 Winter Section Manager Election Results
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Field Day Station Locator Service Returning for 2009
+ RAC Elects New President
EMCOMMWEST to Include ARRL Pacific Division Convention
ARRL Sweepstakes and RTTY Roundup Set New Records
WSJT Monthly Sprints to Begin this Weekend
FCC Revokes License of Indiana Ham

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION TO FEATURE RICHARD GARRIOTT, W5KWQ

Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, will be attending the 2009 ARRL National
Convention -- hosted by the Dayton Hamvention -- as a special guest of
the ARRL and AMSAT. Garriott, who took off for the International Space
Station (ISS) on October 12, became the sixth private citizen to fly
with the Russian Federal Space Agency (RKA) for a short-term mission on
the ISS <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/09/10382/?nc=1>. Not
two hours after he arrived on the ISS on October 14, Garriott was making
ham radio contacts, just as his father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- the
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first ham to make QSOs from space -- did in 1983 while aboard the space shuttle Columbia on STS-9. Both Richard and Owen are ARRL members.

"We are so excited to have Richard be a part of our National Convention this year," said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "He will spend some time in the ARRL EXPO exhibit area, meeting convention attendees and signing autographs <http://www.arrl.org/expo>. He's also been confirmed as a Hamvention forum speaker." The ARRL EXPO is a large exhibit area located in the Ballarena Hall (near the 400-numbered booths) at Hara Arena.

"This mission to the ISS fulfilled a lifelong dream to experience spaceflight, just as my father first did 26 years ago," Richard said. "It's an honor to be the first American to follow a parent into space." While living on the ISS, Richard conducted scientific experiments and environmental research -- but he also had a chance to do quite a bit of Amateur Radio operating, including sending slow-scan TV (SSTV) images.

Richard said that after his first QSOs with Earth, he understood how "well-networked" the global ham community really is: "I received specific reports back through Mission Control-Moscow about the technical aspects of my work and how the [amateur] community was enjoying the transmissions. This redoubled my enthusiasm to do quality work for the Amateur Radio legions around the world, as I realized how much it meant to those with whom I had the chance to talk. By late in my flight, I had contacted many hundreds of hams by voice and I have good records of these contacts."

For the past 26 years, ham radio operations from aboard the space shuttles and the International Space Station have helped to spotlight the innovation and experimentation that are benchmarks of the Amateur Radio Service. Richard Garriott's story as a private astronaut embodies that same "can-do" spirit. "We are absolutely delighted that Richard has agreed to take part in the 2009 ARRL National Convention. His biography reads like an adventure novel -- one that spans global expeditioner, explorer and entrepreneur," Inderbitzen said. "Like many radio amateurs, Richard has an innate fascination with science and technology. He has written very enthusiastically about his experience using Amateur Radio from aboard the ISS. He found it particularly gratifying to find hams around the globe eager to make radio contact with him at any time of the day or night. Throughout the mission, he made hundreds of radio contacts with individuals and classrooms full of children. When we greet Richard in Dayton, we'll welcome him as one of our own!"

==> BSA UPDATES RADIO MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) has updated the requirements needed to earn the Radio merit badge. The new requirements became effective with the publication of Boy Scout Requirements 2009. While no new content has been added to the program, the new merit badge pamphlet features lots of new information -- including color pictures and updated charts and text -- that reflects the changes in the Amateur Radio Service since the last

pamphlet update in 2002. Approximately 4000 Radio merit badges are earned each year.

According to ARRL ad hoc Scouting Committee member Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, the new Radio Merit Badge pamphlet had been in the works for some time. "BSA has been replacing all merit badge pamphlets with new booklets using color graphics and more modern presentations," he said. "With attractive color photos and clear text explanations of the requirements, the new merit badge pamphlet is a pleasure for the Scouts to read. The new text is due in large part to the efforts of longtime Radio Merit Badge Counselor and K2BSA National Jamboree Staff member Mike Brown, WB2JWD. I am looking forward to using the new pamphlet to teach Radio merit badge at our Council's Merit-Badge-O-Ree this spring, and to having a supply of the new books available for Scouts during the 2009 summer camp season."

Wolfgang said that the requirements for the badge have been shifted around: "The old Part 4 of Requirement 7(b) Broadcast Radio was pulled out and placed in the main body of the requirements as Requirement 8. In addition, the old Requirement 8 (to visit a radio installation and discuss what types of equipment, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station) was moved up to Requirement 7, so that now the three options appear as Requirement 9. The main result is one additional full requirement."

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director and Chairman of the League's ad hoc Scouting Committee Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, called the Radio Merit Badge "a perfect avenue to introduce Scouts and Scouters to the wonderful world of ham radio. Ham clubs across the nation should locate a local Boy Scout Troop, secure permission from their Scoutmaster and/or committee to teach the merit badge and deliver an exceptional Radio merit badge class. What the boys -- and their leaders and parents -- will learn in the process is a fair amount of what is part of the Technician license exam, so the next logical step after a merit badge class is an all-out recruiting effort to get that Troop involved in Amateur Radio. They'll meet new friends and have a great way of communicating while in transit to and from the field, as well as additional peace of mind through an effective means of emergency communications while in the backcountry."

For a complete overview of the Boy Scout Radio merit badge, see the Radio merit badge page on the BSA Web site <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/advancementandawards/meritbadges/mb-RADO.aspx>.

==> ARRL DX PHONE CONTEST BRINGS DX IN FULL FORCE TO HF BANDS

With the 2009 ARRL International DX CW Contest now history <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/11/10644/?nc=1>, the first full weekend in March brings the next round of competition: The 2009 ARRL DX SSB Contest

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>. Like its CW predecessor, this event focuses on DX stations working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period.

"While the origins of the ARRL DX Contest go back to 1929, the first Phone weekend wasn't until 1937," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "AM was the voice mode used at that time. The rules may have changed since the event was held back in the 1930s, but the premise remains the same: How many contacts with stations in far-away locales can you make?"

Just as in the CW contest a couple of weeks ago, US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX stations -- this means stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada.

How can you participate? Kutzko said you're only limited by your imagination and willingness to get on the air: "Even though we are at the bottom of the 11-year solar cycle, there will be plenty of chances to work DX, even for stations running 100 W and a dipole or vertical antenna. If you live in an area where antenna restrictions exist, take your contest effort on the road! Operate from your car, set up a portable antenna in a park or campground or see if a friend's station is available. If you have a station and won't be using it, consider opening your doors to members of your club to try their hand at working some DX. If you make 100 QSOs, you're eligible to purchase a commemorative pin for your efforts."

The ARRL DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 7 to 2359 UTC Sunday, March 8. Complete rules and forms are available online <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>. Why let all this DX pass you by? Get on the air and have some fun!
==> QEX: THE MARCH/APRIL 2009 ISSUE

The March/April issue of QEX is coming soon, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you don't want to miss <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

In this issue, Gary Steinbaugh, AF8L, introduces us to "A Cybernetic Sinusoidal Synthesizer." The initial part presents some interesting history and theory of feedback control. The system includes an oven-stabilized crystal-controlled oscillator, a PLL frequency synthesizer with a low phase noise sinusoidal output, a variable gain RF amplifier for automatic power level control and an RF power meter with a digital readout in dBm and an analog voltage output. Subsequent articles will describe these circuits in detail. Ron Skelton, W6WO, takes us "Exploring Near-End-Fed Wire Antennas" by modeling his design using EZNEC, and then building a 40 meter version to verify the modeled performance. Ken Grant, VE3FIT, describes "A Versatile Two-Tone Audio

Generator for SSB Testing." This handy piece of test gear could be a valuable addition to your test bench.

Thomas Alldread, VA7TA, continues to describe his "NimbleSig III" dual output DDS RF generator. This circuit provides signals over a range from 100 kHz to 200 MHz, with 1 Hz resolution. In this part of the series we learn about the control software design, computer interface, MPU programming and initial testing. Rudy Severns, N6LF, presents more of his research in "Experimental Determination of Ground System Performance for HF Verticals." Part 3 compares the performance of antennas using ground-surface radials and those using elevated radials. If you use vertical antennas on HF, or have thought about using vertical antennas on HF, you will want to read all of the articles in this series. Roger Monroe, K7NTW, introduces the process of programming a microcontroller in "Some Assembly Required." As a practical application, he describes how he used a microcontroller in the design of a QSK amplifier keying interface for use between his Ten-Tec Omni IV+ radio and his Heath SB-220 amplifier.

Ray Mack, W5IFS, continues his software defined radio column. In this installment of "SDR: Simplified," Ray looks at signals in the time domain and the frequency domain, and introduces the concept of Fourier transforms. He also explains the Nyquist criterion for sampling signals in analog to digital conversions as well as the filtering requirements for digital to analog conversions. Mark Spencer, WA8SME, has been sending results of his further data collection based on his article, "SID: Study Cycle 24, Don't Just Use It" from the September/October 2008 issue of QEX. The "Tech Notes" column in this issue includes some graphs of Mark's data, as well as a re-designed SID receiver and interface. The "Reader's Page" includes photos of two different GPS-derived frequency standards. Readers are encouraged to submit photos of their projects, to show off their handiwork.

Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50/printed page. Get more information and an Author's Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/#aguide>. If you prefer postal mail, send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Author's Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494.

QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B <wr1b@arrl.org>, and is published bimonthly. The subscription rate (6 issues) for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First Class US delivery, it's $37; in Canada and internationally by airmail it's $31. Nonmembers add $12 to these rates. Subscribe to QEX today.

Editor's Note: Due to production difficulties, the March/April issue of QEX will be arriving about two weeks later than normal. Readers should expect to see their copies in their mailboxes in mid March. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

==> TRAIN THE TRAINERS COURSE DEBUTS AT ORLANDO HAMCATION

The inaugural Train the Trainers course -- supported by a grant from the ARRL Foundation -- made its first appearance on February 13-14 at HamCation <http://www.hamcation.com/> in Orlando, Florida. Led by ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, 12 participants -- primarily from the ARRL Southeastern Division -- completed the course. HamCation is the ARRL Southeastern Division's convention.

According to Spencer, the focus of the Train the Trainers course is on course development, instructional techniques and instructional resources -- not on the technical content of the course. The objective of the course is to develop and validate a model program that could be used to provide instruction to volunteer ham radio licensing course instructors, helping to improve their teaching effectiveness.

ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, attended the Train the Trainers course: "When I agreed to attend the Train the Trainer sessions at Orlando HamCation, I intended to be a fly on the wall. But as a volunteer instructor myself, I found that I was caught up in the enthusiasm of those who signed up for the course. Each of the participants came with a set of teaching experiences, and left with even more -- and some made dramatic changes in their philosophy and approach to teaching licensing classes. I found the hours I spent under Mark's leadership rewarding and very, very useful. Kudos to Director Sarratt and the HamCation team for their support of this pilot project. I hope that this is just the beginning of something that can enhance our teaching of ham radio licensing."

Spencer commended the Orlando Amateur Radio Club (OARC) <http://www.oarc.org/> -- HamCation's sponsor -- for their "exceptional job of providing a venue for the class. ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, and his primary point of contact, Ed Tyler, KI4GKS, did an excellent job of advertising the course, accepting applications from interested volunteer instructors and vetting and selecting the final pool of participants."

Spencer said the response from the course's participants was enthusiastic. Here are a few comments:
* The course provided some great insights to different approaches to subject matter, including out-of-the-ordinary presentation strategies and considerations for class preparation.
* Participations were able to compare real-life classroom experiences.
* I expected new techniques, and I got them. Rearranging the material in a logical manner was something that made sense, but I had not given any thought.
* The other (more important?) way the class exceeded my expectations was the caliber of the "students" themselves. They were engaged, brilliant and motivated for this to work. I like to think of myself as a really good instructor, but I learned quite a number of useful and interesting things from the classroom discussions just with the students.
* The most valuable feature of the class was the opportunity to "face down my fear" and present in front of an audience of top-notch people

who were there to critique my work -- scary, yes; on the edge, yes. But a very powerful motivational and quality-oriented tool to really pay attention to the lessons and put forward one's very best effort, and then learn from those critiques.

==> 2009 WINTER SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS

ARRL members in the North Texas Section have elected a new Section Manager. Jay Urish, W5GM, of Flower Mound, received 740 votes; his opponent, incumbent Section Manager Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, of Dallas, received 678 votes. Blackwell has served as Section Manager since 2005. In Arizona, members re-elected incumbent Tom Fagan, K7DF, of Tucson. Fagan, who has been Section Manager since 2005, received 1016 votes; Robert Spencer, KE8DM, of Yuma, received 205 votes. Ballots were counted and verified at ARRL Headquarters on Tuesday, February 24.

Iowa will have a new Section Manager starting in April. Tom Brehmer, N0LOH, of Muscatine, was the only candidate to run for office when veteran Section Manager Jim Lasley, N0JL, of Chillicothe, decided not to run for another term. Lasley has been the Iowa Section Manager since 1994. Brehmer is presently the ARRL Official Observer Coordinator in Iowa and a Volunteer Examiner. He is serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Muscatine Amateur Radio Club.

In Wyoming, Garth Crowe, N7XKT, continues as Section Manager for the April 2009-March 2011 term of office. Crowe was appointed in January to take the reins from LeeAnne Sachau, WY7DTW, who decided to step down after she was the only nominee for the next term of office.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their upcoming terms of office beginning April 1: J.M. Rowe, N5XFW, Arkansas; Jim Brooks, KY4Z, Kentucky; Malcolm Keown, W5XX, Mississippi; Doug Dunn, K7YD, Montana, and Carl Gardenias, WU6D, Orange.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "A savage Sun consumes its hidden day" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Excitement mounted a few days ago when new Solar Cycle 24 sunspot 1013 emerged, but two days later it was fading away, similar to other recent sunspot appearances. The sunspot number for February 24-26 was 12, 14 and 12. Today's number will likely be 0. Sunspot numbers for February 19-25 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 12 and 14 with a mean of 3.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.9, 69.2, 70.6, 70.3, 70.8, 71 and 70.7 with a mean of 70.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 1, 3, 3, 3, 5, 6 and 3 with a mean of 3.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 3, 2, 3, 3, 6 and 2 with a mean of 2.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by David Gascoyne's "Winter Garden"

<http://www.poetryarchive.org/poetryarchive/singlePoem.do?poemId=174>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the Russian WW PSK Contest is on February 27-28. Look for the UBA Contest (CW), Mississippi QSO Party, North American QSO Party (RTTY), CQ WW 160 Meter Contest (SSB) and the CQC Winter QSO Party to be on the air February 28-March 1. The High Speed CW Contest is March 1. The North Carolina QSO Party and DARC 10 Meter Digital "Corona" are both March 1-2. Next week is the ARRL International DX Contest (SSB) on March 7-8. The NCCC Sprint is March 6. The Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is March 7 and the Open Ukraine RTTY Championship is March 7-8. Look for the SKCC Weekend Sprint, the UBA Spring Contest (CW), the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest and the NSARA Contest on March 8. The CLARA HF Contest is March 10-11 and March 14-15. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (CW) is March 11. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March 8, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, March 20, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2, Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Field Day Station Locator Service Returning for 2009: First introduced in 2008, the ARRL's Field Day Station Locator Service was a popular addition to the Field Day toolbox. This service -- an interactive map that helps amateurs or those interested in Amateur Radio find a Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> site near them -- is free to clubs or individuals who will be operating public Field Day stations. Stations can also be listed by state or province. If your group would like to be

a part of the Station Locator Service, it's easy to get started -- just go to the Field Day Station Locator Web site and follow the instructions <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On June 27-28, join tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators as they gather for a public demonstration of our Service.

* RAC Elects New President: Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) President Dave Goodwin, VE3AAQ/VO1AU, announced he was resigning his post, effective immediately, at the RAC Board of Directors teleconference meeting on February 24. At the same teleconference meeting, the RAC Board elected Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, as RAC President. Cooke will serve until December 31, 2009, the end of the current term. According to RAC Vice President for International Affairs Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, Goodwin indicated that his decision was motivated by his inability to devote enough time to RAC affairs, due to a recent increase in personal and professional responsibilities. Goodwin became RAC President on January 1, 2008 at the end of President Earle Smith's, VE6NM, tenure. Cooke has a long history of working with RAC. His involvement started in the early 1990s as an Assistant Director; he was served as RAC Ontario South Director from November 2001-January 2005. He was then elected by the RAC Board as Vice President for Field Services, serving from January 2006-February 2009 when he resigned to accept the appointment as President. -- Information provided by RAC

* EMCOMMWEST to Include ARRL Pacific Division Convention: EMCOMMWEST 2009 -- an ARRL specialty convention devoted entirely to emergency communications -- will host this year's Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon) at the Circus Circus Hotel Resort in Reno, Nevada May 1-3. Supervisor of the ARRL's Field and Public Service Team Steve Ewald, WV1X, will host an emergency communications forum and deliver the keynote address. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, will be the speaker at the Saturday evening banquet; Hollingsworth will also present a forum on the legal aspects of emergency communications. Other forums in the works include an introduction to the work of Public Information Officers (PIO) and the PR-101 Course <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10578/?nc=1>; how to create an effective ARES team (and even how to create an ARES team from scratch); how to work with ARES from an Emergency Manager's view; packet software and operations for emergency communications; practical emergency communication functions for ATV; how to creating a Section-wide intercom using EchoLink and VoIP, and more! SKYWARN and storm spotter training will also be offered. ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and Vice Director Andy Oppel, N6AJO, will lead the ARRL Forum. Registration is now available online via the EMCOMMWEST Web site <http://www.emcommwest.org/>.

* ARRL Sweepstakes and RTTY Roundup Set New Records: The lack of good HF propagation didn't seem to affect participation in the 2008 Sweepstakes or the 2009 RTTY Roundup contests. According to ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, both contests were record-breaking events. "We have

received 3298 logs for the November SSB and CW Sweeps combined in 2008," Kutzko said. "That is -- at bare minimum -- a 5 year high. The 2009 RTTY Roundup in January saw 1564 entries, also a 5 year high." Kutzko said he attributes some of the increase to the hoopla surrounding the 75th running of Sweepstakes: "The excitement over the new Triple Play Award <http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay> was likely a large factor in the RTTY Roundup increase. Interest in contesting in general is on the rise."

* WSJT Monthly Sprints to Begin this Weekend: The first monthly WSJT Sprint contest will be held this Saturday, February 28 between 4 AM and noon (local time). WSJT <http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/> is a popular software suite created by Joe Taylor, K1JT. It is used to make digital contacts by reflecting signals off the ionized trails left by meteors (a technique known as meteor scatter). The same software can be used to make contacts by using the moon as a radio reflector (moonbounce). WSJT Sprint points are based on the distances worked. Participants are allowed to make random or assisted contacts (skeds via Ping Jockey <http://www.pingjockey.net/cgi-bin/pingtalk>). Enter as 6 meter only, 2 meter only or Combined class. Simultaneous 6/2 meter operation is permitted in the Combined class. Complete rules are available online <http://www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/>; click on "Sprints" in the content bar on the left.

* FCC Revokes License of Indiana Ham: On February 25, the Federal Communications Commission revoked the license of Lonnie L. Keeney, KB9RFO, of Greencastle Indiana. According to the FCC, Keeney's 2002 conviction of child molestation, a Class C felony, renders him "lack[ing] the requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee." Keeney has 30 days to appeal the revocation <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-456A1.pdf>.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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51. Re: CC&R's question

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-27 20:38:20 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <PKidnT7NIo-10jXUnZ2dnUVZ_sPinZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2161

"KC4UAI" wrote

> I happened to be doing a bit of research in an effort to find out
> exactly what the CC&R's said about antennas for my house. I used to
> have a 75M inverted-V dipole in my back yard, but the association sent
> me a letter that said it had to come down because it was not allowed.
> I just took their word for it at the time because I didn't have a copy
> of the restrictions. Since then I've struggled to get something in my
> attic to work, with very little success.

When you do get a copy of the CC&R's, see if there's a clause (like in mine) that says "no antennas without permission." That'd mean you could ask for permission, outlining what you plan to do, provide a drawing, etc. If they don't permit them at all, then you have to go "stealth," which'd make operating reliably on 75m difficult. I have an MFJ Hi-Q Loop that operates 10-30 meters (very well) mounted vertically on a 5 foot mast in a post anchor in the ground. I painted the plastic body a light green and called it my "yard sculpture." (They also offer one for 15-40 meters, but it's only 25% efficient on 40.)

I suppose, too, if you wanted to operate 6 and/or 2 meters you can mount yagi(s) on the roof for those bands, telling them it's for tv (if there are any OTA stations in your area). They can't stop you from erecting a tv antenna. There are lots of possibilities.

Howard N7SO

52. Re: CC&R's question

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-02-28 16:41:29 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <0db88ead-4883-4997-95c1-9888fa6aefcc@n20g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2162

On Feb 27, 11:47 am, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> Yes, I understand that having a lawyer is good thing in such
> situations.

IMHO, it's not just a good thing; it's absolutely essential. Not just
any lawyer, either, but an experienced Real Estate attorney that is
well known in your township, borough, etc.

(insert standard I-am-not-a-lawyer disclaimer HERE)

> Apparently my builder was fond of not finishing up all the required
> filings to get all the restrictions in place until the first lot was
> sold. I've found a number of other subdivisions that have simila
r
> situations, where a lot was sold before the restrictions where filed.

If the builder didn't file the restrictions before your lot was sold,
you *may* have a case. OTOH, there may be a clause in there someplace
that permitted the builder or a subsequent owner to add the
restrictions later - which may or may not have been done.

A qualified RE attorney can tell you if you have a case worth
pursuing.

> It kind of makes sense in a way, to wait until you've actually sold
> something to go though the expense of drafting and recording
> these things.

> There has to be some
> other way to get the deed restrictions applied to these lots that are
> sold before they get recorded for the whole
> subdivision.

Any owner could add deed restrictions to a property at any time, as
long as they're legal restrictions. Unless you bought the house from
the builder, another owner may have signed up. Or maybe not. That's
the kind of thing you need an attorney for.

>Otherwise
> there are a bunch of houses paying HOA dues that don't owe
> them... At
> least for the developer that built my house.

> And I'm not trying to "get out" of the HOA and not pay dues. I'm
> really looking for some leverage that I can use to get them to
> accept
> reasonable antennas for HF operations on my property.

There may be a requirement to pay the dues that is separate from the anti-antenna deed restriction. Or there may be benefits to joining even if you don't have to.

IMHO, you should not be thinking in terms of "leverage" or "reasonable antennas" at this point. If it were me, I'd find an RE attorney who could tell me for sure whether the no-antennas deed restrictions apply to my house or not. Or at least who could tell me how to find out for sure - quietly.

If they apply (say, a previous owner added them) then you are out of luck. If they don't apply, you don't need "leverage" or HOA approval at all.

Related topic: I wonder if the current housing "downturn" gives hams any new methods to ease antenna restrictions?

73 es GL de Jim, N2EY

53. [ADMIN,META] Allow crossposting to rec.radio.amateur.moderated?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-03 14:22:16 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <gojeci$m74$1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2163
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.antenna,rec.radio.amateur.dx,rec.radio.amateur.equipment,rec.radio.amateur.homebrew,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.amateur.space,rec.radio.amateur.moderated

(Followups directed to poster by default. If followup to newsgroups is desired, edit your headers on followup to drop rec.radio.amateur.moderated from the Newsgroups line, else your article will be rejected.)

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup enters its 3rd year of operation this month. Since its creation in February of 2007, we have approved nearly 3,000 articles about amateur radio and closely related subjects. We would like to thank our readers and posters for their quality contributions to our newsgroup.

When we first started out, consistent with our newsgroup's Charter and Posting Guidelines:

http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/

we allowed discussion threads to be posted to our newsgroup only. Our moderation software is programmed to automatically reject any crossposts. The one exception has been periodic information postings that are crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and/or news.answers.

Some moderated newsgroups, such as those in the comp.lang.perl.* and misc.kids.* hierarchies, started accepting crosspostings to appropriate unmoderated newsgroups after a suitable waiting period from their initial creation. Now that our newsgroup is well-established and carried at most major sites, we would like to implement this customary followup and allow some crossposting. We would propose to allow simultaneous crossposting (i.e., one article, with all newsgroups specified at once on the Newsgroups line in the headers) to rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated newsgroup in the rec.radio.amateur.*, alt.radio.amateur.*, and alt.ham-radio.* hierarchies only.

Pros:

- Allows the moderated and unmoderated newsgroups to share discussion threads of common interest, without propagating more than one set of articles to news, or showing them more than once in a newsreader. Presently, threads of common interest have to run in parallel, with different sets of followups, and requiring readers to have to follow two threads, possibly with duplicate articles, in different newsgroups. We have seen multiple examples of this happening in the amateur-radio-related newsgroups over the past 2 years.

- Provides the default action of submitting articles and followups to moderator review, as news servers will forward to us for approval any article that contains rec.radio.amateur.moderated on the Newsgroups line. This allows the moderated newsgroup crossposting to serve as a "guardian" or "sentinel" to discourage threads from getting hijacked into running off-topic or into personal abuse. This may also encourage posters to use the underutilized rec.radio.amateur.misc or .policy newsgroups as crossposting targets for articles that might otherwise be posted only to .moderated.

- Readers of the unmoderated newsgroups will enjoy high-quality, on-topic, discussion threads that would otherwise require subscribing to and reading a moderated newsgroup. Readers of the moderated newsgroup will enjoy high-quality, on-topic, discussion threads that would otherwise require subscribing to and reading other unmoderated newsgroups. Those unmoderated newsgroups may contain articles of widely varying degrees of quality and topic relevance.

- Participation in this crossposting scheme is completely voluntary. Posters of initial articles in threads will make the voluntary choice to add rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated newsgroup to the Newsgroups line when posting. Those following up to these crossposted threads will make a voluntary choice whether to keep rec.radio.amateur.moderated or any other newsgroup on the Newsgroups line, or remove them. Followups may be directed by default to any subset of the newsgroups on the Newsgroups line (or via E-mail to "poster") by specifying them on an appropriate Followup-To line. In short, you control what you post, where you post it, and what default destinations you want for any followups. This proposed crossposting scheme does not change any of these long-standing features of Usenet and newsreader software.

Cons:

- This will subject all such simultaneously crossposted articles to moderator review by us. If they do not meet the Charter and Posting Guidelines of rec.radio.amateur.moderated, they will be rejected. We will attempt to work with submitters to let them know what is happening, and how their articles can be fixed for eventual approval. However, rejected articles that were submitted anonymously without a traceable/derivable E-mail address or identity will have to be dropped silently without feedback to the unreachable submitter.

- Moderator review will introduce some posting delay. However, it has been our experience over the last 2 years that with our large moderation team distributed across many time zones, and the automation provided by our moderation software, we can turn submissions around relatively quickly, often within an hour.

- Many newsreaders do not give clear feedback to the user what newsgroups in which a given article appears, nor to what newsgroups a followup to that article will be sent by default. We expect to initially have to handle a few confused, possibly angry, submitters

who will insist that they did not intend to post to a moderated newsgroup. We are willing to provide the necessary polite feedback and user education to them to allow this crossposting scheme to work effectively. This will help ensure that the scheme is only used by those who are reasonably aware of the various pros and cons. We hope that this problem will diminish with time and greater user awareness.

- Not all newsgroups, especially those in the alt.* hierarchy, are carried at all sites. Users may find themselves following up by default to newsgroups that do not exist on their local news server, possibly resulting in article rejection from their server. Those users would have to edit their Newsgroups line for successful resubmission. We will work with users to get appropriate newsgroups added to their local servers, as well as with Panix to get those newsgroups added to Panix's server. However, as with default followups described in the previous paragraph, we expect to have to go through an initial period of user and news service provider education and polite feedback. We hope that this problem also will diminish with time and greater user awareness.

We propose to enforce this scheme in our moderation software as follows:

- Submissions simultaneously crossposted to more than 2 newsgroups will be automatically rejected with a rejection form letter (same as what happens now to submissions that are posted to more than 1 newsgroup).

- Submissions that contain newsgroups on the Newsgroups line other than approved newsgroups in the rec.radio.amateur.*, alt.radio.amateur.*, or alt.ham-radio.* hierarchies will be automatically rejected with a rejection form letter.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message) requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

To help publicize this new editorial policy, we will update our Posting Guidelines, which are posted to the moderated newsgroup on the 15th of each month. Changes to our Posting Guidelines are indicated by an updated date in the Revision: auxiliary header at the top of the body, as well as "change bars" ('|') after each modified line of text. We will also add a short announcement, posted on the 1st of each month and cross-posted to the unmoderated newsgroups, restating this new editorial policy, and encouraging crossposted submissions.

Since this is a change to our newsgroup's editorial policies, and with some impact to the readers and posters of the unmoderated newsgroups, we would like to solicit 30 days of direct feedback and/or public discussion regarding this proposed change. For example, we would be interested to know if allowing crossposting to one other unmoderated newsgroup is enough, or if two would be preferable. We feel that more than two additional crossposted newsgroups greatly increases the probability of misconduct or accidental misposting that may result in article rejection by us. Also, should this scheme be opened up to uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.* as well? You may send us E-mail directly to our administrative contact address below, which is the default Followup-To/Reply-To for this article. You may also discuss this publicly on the unmoderated newsgroups. In fact, we cannot stop you from doing so. We will make every reasonable effort to incorporate any feedback and suggestions. If we decide to implement this proposal, we will make a public announcement shortly after the end of the 30-day discussion period.

(Followups directed to poster by default. If followup to newsgroups is desired, edit your headers on followup to drop rec.radio.amateur.moderated from the Newsgroups line, else your article will be rejected.)

--
rec.radio.amateur.moderated Admin
rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com

54. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1647 - March 6 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-06 15:17:12 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090306011114.01636998@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2164
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1647 - March 6 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1647 with a release date of Friday, March 6th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. A California jury condemns another of the Hawkes' murderers to death; the killer of a ham couple in Nebraska gets life with no parole; a ham convicted of molesting a child looses his license, a new rescue information service is announced by Holland's leading broadcaster and a ham radio space tourist prepares for his second trip to the ISS. Find out who on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1647, coming your way right now.

**

THE HAWKES CASE: THIRD CONSPIRATOR WILL FACE DEATH PENALTY

John Fitzgerald Kennedy will be put to death for his part in the murders at sea of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW. Reports:

--

The same jury that convicted John Fitzgerald Kennedy last week of two counts of first-degree murder with special circumstances in the killings took only 7 hours to decide that the 43 year old former gang member should be condemned to death. This, for his part in the gruesome Hawkes killings at sea in November of 2004.

Kennedy is the third defendant to stand trial for the double murders at sea, which occurred somewhere off the coast of California. 29 year old Skylar Deleon, of Long Beach, California, the plotter, recruited Kennedy at the last minute to help to subdue Thomas Hawkes aboard the boat. He was convicted last year and is awaiting a sentence of death on March 20. Jennifer Henderson, Deleon's former wife, was convicted in 2006 for her role and was has been sentenced to life without parole.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Matt Murphy, who prosecuted all three, said that the murder conspiracy would not have succeeded had it not been for Kennedy. Murphy described Kennedy a muscular street gang member with an extensive criminal background. By the time he was 40, Kennedy had accumulated 21 arrests for such charges as battery, theft, drugs and attempted murder. In March 2005, he was arrested and charged with murdering the Hawkes for financial gain.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Superior Court Judge Frank F. Fasel scheduled Kennedy's official sentencing for March 27th. No Orange County judge has ever reversed a jury's death verdict at sentencing. (Published news reports)

**

ENFORCEMENT: MURDERER OF TWO NEBRASKA HAMS SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

The man who murdered two Nebraska hams last summer will never again see freedom. This, as Brandon Crago is sentenced to two terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the killings of Steve Baily, N0US and his wife Carolyn, N0LAL, in their rural Lincoln home on August 10th 2008.

The crime was discovered when a neighbor dropped by to let the Baily's know that their dogs were loose. When he reached the Baily's house he found Steve Baily's body outside beneath a blanket. Carolyn Baily was on the floor inside a broken front storm door. Each had been shot twice and their home ransacked.

Investigators found a spent shotgun shell at the crime scene. Crago's shotgun was found later in a Lincoln trash bin. Lab tests showed that the gun had Crago's and Carolyn Baily's DNA on it. Tests also showed that Crago's shoes had Steve Baily's blood on them.

Last month Crago pleaded no contest to all charges against him. District Judge Jodi Nelson has now sentenced him to the two life terms which, under Nebraska state law, was the only sentence possible in this case.

Chief Deputy Lancaster County Attorney Joe Kelly said that his office didn't seek the death penalty because of the uncertainty surrounding executions in the state.

One of the victims' daughters, Jennifer Baily, was in the courtroom to hear
Judge Nelson hand down the sentence. (Lincoln Journal Star, K0NEB)

**

RADIO MISTAKE: THAT'S NOT A BOMB IT'S AN ANTENNA

Still in Nebraska, a sad yet funny story out of Omaha. That's where Police and a Bomb Squad have blown up a trap from a ham radio antenna because nobody could figure out what it was.

It all happened on Thursday, February 26th. That's when both agencies were
called out following the discovery by a cleaning crew of a device that they thought looked like a PVC pipe bomb.

The house in question belonged to Bob Rennolet, W0AEX. There had been an electrical fire in the house 2 weeks ago and he had hired the clean-up crew but it had no idea as to what it had found. So, rather than take chances, the Bomb Squad decided to blow it up. That's when they realized it was

not
a bomb but a piece of W0AEX's ham radio gear.

Ironically, W0AEX lives next door to a fire station, so they didn't have far to go to put out the fire or blow up the trap. (K0NEB, W0HXL)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC REVOKES LICENSE OF CONVICTED CHILD MOLESTER

The FCC has revoked the amateur radio license of an Indiana ham who was convicted several years ago of molesting a child. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramovich, NT3V, has the details:

--

Lonnie Keeney, KB9RFO, will have to surrender his ham license after the FCC ruled "he lacks the requisite character and qualifications to be and remain a commission licensee."

Kris Anne Monteith, the FCC's chief of the Enforcement Bureau, issued the ruling after a more than two-year process that started with a compaint filed in 2006.

The FCC investigated and found Kenney pleaded guilty in December 2002 to inappropriate contact with a 5-year-old.

He was sentenced to six years in prison. Because of his conviction, Kenney is required to register as a sex offender and must register his address with law enforcement.

He was also barred from any contact with youth during a period of probation which ended last May.

In her order filed with the commission, Monteith said the character of a licensee is one of the factors the commission considers in determining whether a person should be granted an operating license.

She noted the commission has applied such character standards developed for broadcasters to applicants and licensees of the Amateur Radio Service.

Monteith said since Keeney acknowledged his conviction and continues to be supervised by law enforcement as a sex offender, his license should be revoked.

The revocation order was adopted Feb. 25.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

Keeney's license revocation is effective on the 40th day after release of the revocation order, unless he files a Petition for Reconsideration. He also has the option of filing an Application for Review within thirty 30 days. If he does either, the effective date of the revocation order will be suspended pending further order of the Commission. (FCC)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WA4TEN repeater serving Knoxville, Tennessee.

(5 sec pause here)

**

WORLDBEAT: RNW ESTABLISHES RESCUE RADIO INFO SERVICE

In case of an international disaster, a shortwave broadcaster in Holland will be there to bring you the latest news and information. Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, has the rest of the story:

--

Radio Netherlands Worldwide has a new international disaster information system set to launch this spring. Using a combination of special broadcasts, a separate Web site and mobile phone alerts, the international service will report on events and provide complete information for any Dutch victims and their relatives.

A specially trained Radio Netherlands team will answer questions via phone, radio, the Internet and the Dutch BVN television network. It will cover incidents such as natural disasters, social conflicts or any terrorist attacks that may occur. The news and information stream will be kept up to date from minute to minute.

Editor-in-Chief Rik Rensen is in charge of the project. He says that the disaster team is Radio Netherland's response to the urgent requests for help and information we received during recent violence in Mumbai and the lengthy airport strike in Bangkok.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm, Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, in Shelby, North Carolina.

--

This new service from Radio Netherlands will be in addition to their many other international broadcasts. (Media Network)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: THE K5D TEAM SAYS THANK YOU

The recent Desecheo Island K5D DXpedition netted a grand total of 115,783 QSO's. According to co-leaders Bob Alperin, K4UEE, and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, it means that the DXpedition ranks seventh for all-time for the total number of QSO's, and first for the most 30 Meter contacts.

In recent times, Desecheo Island was the number two most-wanted contact in Asia, and number three most-wanted in Europe. Alperin and Johnson say that 40% of the K5D contacts were with those two continents, making it an

important goal that was achieved.

The team leaders say that a special K5D QSL card is in the final stages of design and will be available in the next few weeks. In the meantime, QSLs go directly to N2OO and are also being accepted on-line.

Alberin and Johnson add that the Desecheo 2009 team wants to thank everyone for working them and helping to make this DXpedition such a success. The K5D operation ran from February 12th to the 26th. (K5D release)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CHARLES SIMONYI, KE7KDP HEADS BACK TO THE ISS

Software pioneer Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, is to make a return trip to the International Space Station. If all goes as planned, Simonyi is expected to blast off for the ISS later this month on board the Soyuz TMA-14 crew change and re-supply flight.

In early 2006, Simonyi expressed interest in becoming a space tourist and signed agreements with the space tourism company, Space Adventures, Ltd., for a ten-day mission to the International Space Station. He launched on April 7, 2007on board Soyuz TMA-10, sharing a ride with two Russian cosmonauts to the International Space Station.

During his last stay on the ISS, Simonyi made numerous ham radio contacts with kids in schools world wide. Most were made using his United States KE7KDP callsign but Simonyi used his Hungarian call of HA5SIK when he contacted 25 radio amateurs in that nation on April 12th.

He returned aboard the Soyuz TMA-9 in April 21st. In October 2008, he booked a second trip to the ISS through Space Adventures that's about to take him back to the ISS, with liftoff slated for March 26th at 11:48 Moscow time. (ARNewsline(tm) from published reports)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE NET: RADIO ARCALA CONTEST

A ham radio station that exists primarily on the Internet has launched a story writing contest to get more kids interested in the hobby. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham, UK, with more:

--

The Arcala radio station, OH8X, is believed to be the first-ever amateur radio station to be active in a Virtual World on the Internet in the hope of attracting more young people to the hobby.

Millions of computer-minded youngsters gather there daily. They have launched a competition asking amateurs to imagine themselves as an 18 year old enthusiastic radio amateur. Then, in 250 words or less, describe the excitement of being an amateur to other young people and say why they should join amateur radio. The writing should be either in English or Spanish.

Please submit your paper by e-mail no later than 15 March to oh8x<at>sral<dot>fi for English papers or yv5amh<at>iaru-r2<dot>org for Spanish ones.

The papers will be reviewed by a panel of well known international radio amateurs. The three best papers will receive plaques and the winning text will be made available to amateur radio publications and in the Virtual Reality world.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJG

--

Full details are on line at www.radioarcala.com. (RSGB, Radio Arcala)

**

RADIO ACCIDENTS: SOUTH CAROLINA TOWER FELLED

High winds from the winter storm may have toppled a broadcast tower in Spartanburg, South Carolina. According to news reports, the felled tower belonged to CBS affiliate WSPA and was located atop Hogback Mountain near Spartanburg. It collapsed on Sunday afternoon, March 1st as a major winter storm was passing through the area. Nobody was injured in the mishap and WSPA remained in operation by streaming its programming on-line. It's not known if any local ham radio repeaters were located on the WSPA tower. (WCSC On-Line)

**

ON THE NET: A COMPUTER WORM CALLED DOWNADUP

A computer worm called Downadup, continues to spread after infecting millions of corporate computers and servers. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is here with the details on this one:

--

Considered to be the most severe outbreak in years, about 1.2 million networks were contaminated as of January 23rd. This, according to the Helsinki- based Internet security software maker F-Secure.

That's up from less than a million on January 20th. According to F-Secure the worm, also know as Conficker, infects computers and servers running the Microsoft Windows operating system. It can then block users from accessing their accounts, also spreads through portable storage devices.

F-Secure posted a warning about the virus on its Web site on January 7th. The strain is different from other outbreaks because it mainly affects corporate networks rather than consumer's home systems.

I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

More on the Downadup worm can be found on the websites of most security software companies such as F-Secure, McAfee, E-Trust and numerous others. (Published reports)

**

ON THE AIR: PRACTICE MORSE ON 2 METER FM

If you live in the Kansas City area and want to practice CW, take your radio to 2 meter FM. Specifically to the Kansas City 145.37 repeater for the Independence CW over FM Net. The net meets at 1900 Central Standard Time every Monday night. Anyone with an interest in Morse and who owns a CW practice oscillator is more than welcome to participate. (KC0WTS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEW: GENACHOWSKI NOMINATED TO HEAD FCC

Some names in the news. President Barack Obama has nominated Julius Genachowski as Chairman of the FCC. A lawyer by training, the 46 year old Genachowski was the architect of the new President's hugely successful drive to use the Internet to raise funds for the primary and general election campaigns. Genachowski also pushed the idea of using wireless as a way to connect with supporters

Julius Genachowski, who attended Harvard with President Obama is also a venture capitalist with long ties to Silicon Valley. He spent eight years at IAC InterActive and was a law clerk for two Supreme Court justices. He later served as chief counsel to former FCC chairman Reed Hundt. His appointment has to be approved by the Senate. (FCC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEW APPOINTMENTS AT RAC

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Board of Directors has appointed Sue Cooke, VE3SUH, as Vice President for Field Services. Cook will hold this position for the remainder of a two-year term which ends December 31st or until a permanent replacement is appointed, whichever comes first.

Former Vice President for Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, resigned from that post to accept appointment as the Radio Amateurs of Canada President. Both appointments were made at a Board meeting on February 24th. (RAC)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION IN CALIFORNIA IN APRIL

Turning to the social calendar, the annual International DX Convention in Visalia, California, will be held April 17th to the 19th. 2009 marks the 60th anniversary of this event with some added attractions this year include a Contest Academy sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club and a report on the Radio Arcala Project by OH2BH and OH8NC. This years special guest and banquet speaker is retired Navy Vice Admiral J. Scott Redd K0DQ. For complete program information, take your web browser to

www.dxconvention.org (Via e-mail)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: RADIOFEST MONTEREY MARCH 7 AND 8

Radiofest Monterey Bay 2009 runs March 7th to the 8th at Moose Lodge in Del Rey Oaks, California. Look for displays by Elecraft, Ham Radio Outlet and several other top names. Talk-in is on the K6LY 146.97 repeater using a 94.8 tone plus machines on 220 and 440. More information is on line at www.radiofest.org. (Via e-mail)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: CHARLOTTE NC HAMFEST MARCH 14 - 15

The 2008 Charlotte North Carolina Hamfest is slated for March 14th and 15th at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center in Concord. Talk-in will be provided on 146.655MHz repeater with backup on 146.94 machine. More information is www.w4bfb.org/hamfest2009/hamfest.html (Via e-mail)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DON ELLIOT HEALD - THE VOICE OF WWV - SK

The recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has fallen silent. This with word that announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia, who gave WWV its human touch passed away on Thursday, February 19th.

Known in the broadcast world as Don Elliot, Heald had distinguished career that ranged from work at Atlanta Georgia's WSB to his automated and internationally heard WWV broadcasts on shortwave. He was also the voice of the Audichron telephone dial-in Time-Weather-Temperature service and of the Protestant Hour radio show for over 40 years. For nearly five decades Heald narrated the televised Christmas Eve service from Atlanta's Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, where he served as a vestryman, junior warden and senior warden.

Heald was originally from Massachusetts, but came to Atlanta via Lakeland, Florida. He was a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville and began his broadcast career after graduation when he accepted a position at WRUF where remained for three years. In Atlanta he spent much of his spare time devoted to public service work with charities and civic clubs.

A Service of Celebration of Don Elliot Heald's life took place on Tuesday February 24th at the Cathedral of St. Philip. He is survived by his wife Sara Farmer Heald of Atlanta, GA; sons and daughters-in- law David and Deborah of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, Tom and Evelyn Heald and Frank and Mary Heald of Atlanta. Don Elliot Heald was 86. (Various sources via AE6DW)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MELT ICE WITH VARIABLE RESISTANCE WIRE

A new way to keep ice off your antenna and transmission lines is on the horizon. This thanks to a group of New England researchers and a businessman with a vision. Newsline's Jeff Clark, K8JAC, tells us about this new technology that might some day keep your antenna from falling down in an ice storm:

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Dartmouth engineering professor and entrepreneur Victor Petrenko and his colleagues at Ice Engineering in Lebanon, New Hampshire, have invented a way to cheaply and effectively keep ice off power lines.

The new proprietary technology is called a variable resistance cable de-icing system. With only minor cable modifications plus some off-the-shelf electronics, the system switches the electrical resistance of a standard power line from low to high. The high resistance automatically creates heat to melt ice build-up or keep it from forming in the first place.

Ice Engineering plans to install and test a full-scale system prototype on a section of power line in Russia, in late January. The company is also currently negotiating full-scale installations of in other regions of Russia and in China.

--

No word yet as to if and when a personal version of this new technology will be available to the ham in the ice cold street. (Science OnLine)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW CERTIFICATE FOR OPERATING VO-52

Still with ham radio space related news, VU3TYG has announced that AMSAT India will issue a certificate to radio amateurs who establish two-way contact through the VO-52 ham radio satellite between now and May 5th. The first fifty certificates will be sponsored and includes postage. After the 50 certificates have been issued a fee will apply. Please send your QSL card containing the details of your QSO on VO-52 to AMSAT India (Regd.), No. 201, 2nd Main Road, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore 560086 India. Make sure to include the mailing address where you would like to have the certificate sent to VU3TYG)

**

WORLDBEAT: GERMAN AMTOR MAILBOX TO MOVE FREQUENCIES

Turning to news from around the world word that the Germany-based DA5TOR AMTOR mailbox will move its 40 meter access frequencies on March 29th. This, in order to comply with the new worldwide 40 Meter bandplan. The new frequencies are 7.047, 7.049 and 7.051 MHz with the new activity center for AMTOR in Europe will be 7.042 MHz for direct connections. All frequencies and technical details of the mailbox can be found on line art www.amtor.de. (RSGB)

**

WORLDBEAT: RSGB NEGOCIATES 500 kHz NOV EXTENSION

The Radio Society of Great Britain has negotiated extensions to 500 kHz Notices of Variation that permit UK amateurs to utilize that spectrum. Following proposals from the RSGB, Ofcom has extended existing permits for 501 to 504 kHz until February 28th 2010. The RSGB says that letters are being set to all Notices of Variation holders. The extension of the Notices of Variation also authorizes an Effective Radiated Power of up to 10 Watts. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In DX, word that AA7JV and HA7RY will be active from Mellish Reef as VK9GMW in what they call another low-key DXpedition between March 22nd and April 6th. The operation will have a strong low-band focus. QSL via HA7RY direct, by the Bureau or using Logbook to the World. And please note that the dates of this operation are approximate and subject to change with little notice.

A group of 10 operators will be on the air April 12th to April 17th from the Western Sahara using S04R callsign. Operation will take place on 10 to 160 Meters using SSB, CW and some digital modes. The QSL manager will be EA5RM. EA5BZ will be the pilot station and additional info is already available at www.dxfriends.com.

F5TGR will be active as stroke FG from Guadeloupe March 14th to the 28th. Look for him on 40 through 10 Meters using CW and SSB. QSL via F5TGR.

F5UOW, will be active from Boucan Canot near St. Gilles les Bains between March 8th to the 22nd operating holiday style mostly CW on 20 Meters. QSL via his home callsign.

Look for W5JON portable J 6 from Saint Lucia from March 1st through 11th. He will be on 160 through 6 Meters using SSB from Marigot Bay. Antennas are dipoles on the HF bands and a Yagi for 50 Mhz. QSL via W5JON.

PF4T will be active from the Maldives as 8Q7TB from between June 8th to the 25th. Listen for him on 40 and 20 meters using SSB. QSL via PF4T.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: KATY WILLIAMS, KI6FJQ, AGE 19 - S.K.

With this weeks final words, here's our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

--

Every now and then a story truly touches a reporter's soul and so it is with this one. We are sad to report the passing of Katherine E. Williams, KI6FJQ, of Salinas, California. What separates the death of this ham operator from others that we have reported over the years is that Katy -- as she was known by her friends -- was only age 19. She was also the daughter of one of the unofficial members of our Amateur Radio Newsline family, Scott Avery, WA6LIE.

In a note from Scott we learned that Katy died at about 4 p.m. Pacific time on Tuesday, February 24th from complications with pneumonia. Scott tells us that this might have been the result of staph infection contracted from a visit to a dentist.

Scott tells us that Katy got interested in becoming a ham after he let her say hello to an astronaut on-orbit during a space to ground contact. Scott says that Katy thought it was neat to talk to astronauts and cosmonauts. He told her that she could do it on her own by getting her ham ticket.

So Katy studied hard and finally got her license and the call KI6FJQ. And eventually she did get to talk to someone in space when she hooked up with Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP. That's when Simonyi was a space tourist visiting the ISS. She also attended many radio events with Scott and thought it was all "kinda cool."

Scott tells us that Katy had plans to major in medicine as a career. She had a boy friend and truly enjoyed life. Scott describes Katy as a vibrant young teen with her life ahead of her.

Katy Williams is survived by her dad, her mother Mary, KG6LGS, and three brothers and sisters. And no matter how old the rest of us get, Katy Williams, KI6FJQ, will always be age 19. It is to her memory and her young spirit of amateur radio that we dedicate this week's newscast.

--

Our condolences go out to Scott Avery, WA6LIE, and his family on their loss. (ARNewsline(tm) from information supplied by WA6LIE)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline<at>arnewsline<dot>org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You

can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Jim Davis,
W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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55. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 9 (Friday, March 6, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-06 21:53:29 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090306214149.5BC6C30D98@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2165
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 9
March 6, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith Visits ARRL HQ
* + FCC Has Done "Literally Nothing" to Comply with Court Ruling
* + Julius Genachowski Nominated as Next FCC Chairman
* + April QST on the Way to Your Mailbox
* + ARRL Soliciting Nominations for 2008 Hiram Percy Maxim Award
* + ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Rick Campbell, KK7B, Wins February QST Cover Plaque Award
+ US ARDF Championships Registration Now Open
Get on the Air for the ARRL International DX Phone Contest this
Weekend
"Hints and Kinks"
Get Youth Involved in Amateur Radio

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> FCC SPECIAL COUNSEL LAURA SMITH VISITS ARRL HQ

Laura Smith visited ARRL Headquarters on March 5 and 6, her first
official visit as Special Counsel. Smith was named to the position
earlier this year, filling the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth,
K4ZDH, retired in 2008; Hollingsworth served in that position for more
than 10 years as the Commission's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur
Radio Service <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>.
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While at Headquarters, Smith visited with various departments, such as the Lab, the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC), the Regulatory Information Branch and Membership and Volunteer Programs (MVP).

Spending all Thursday afternoon with ARRL Lab staff, Smith discussed power line noise and how it can affect Amateur Radio. "Since Riley had retired last year, very little had been done at the FCC with regard to the power line noise enforcement," said ARRL Laboratory Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG. "The Lab staff discussed the status of the ARRL-FCC Cooperative Agreement on power line noise with Laura and how best to proceed forward <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/07/26/3/?nc=1>. While the ARRL is not in the enforcement business, the Cooperative Agreement was an attempt to help the FCC focus its limited resources in the area where they are most needed -- enforcement. The ARRL's goal is to help resolve as many of these cases as possible with technical and other help before they ever get to the FCC."

Gruber also briefed Smith on some power line noise basics, including a demonstration of some professional grade locating equipment. Using a Model T spark coil as a noise source, Gruber was able to show Smith how a utility can locate power line noise - in many cases, without too much difficulty.

According to ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, the FCC committed to Smith visiting the ARRL once she accepted the position. "I think this visit has been a very productive two days. We are getting to know Laura, and she is getting to know our organization and what we, as the ARRL, can do to help her make her job easier to help the amateur community as a whole," Henderson said. "I just kind of played tour guide and facilitated the visit, introducing her to all the departments here at Headquarters."

Smith, a lawyer, is no stranger to the FCC or Amateur Radio. She began her legal career with the Commission, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB), working with Senior System Analyst Bill Cross, W3TN; she also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith also knew Hollingsworth through her father-in-law Richard M. Smith, former Chief of the Field Operations Bureau, at the time responsible for all FCC field engineering and enforcement activities. Richard Smith led many investigations of illegal uses of the radio spectrum, including the successful apprehension of "Captain Midnight" who overrode a satellite television broadcast signal <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Captain_Midnight_%28HBO%29>. Smith also served as Chief of the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET).

"Riley worked for my father-in-law for years," Smith said. "My father-in-law was the Chief of the Field Operations Bureau at the FCC for 25 years. So enforcement is actually something that is a long-standing family tradition. A member of my family -- the Smith family -- has worked at the FCC continuously since 1964: Myself, my husband and my father-in-law."

Calling Hollingsworth "irreplaceable," Smith said what he did for the Commission and for the amateur community was "amazing. He volunteered for that job. He stood up and said, 'I'm an amateur. I love this community and I want to give back to it.' This position needs to be filled by somebody who is interested in doing it long-term. This [job] is not a stepping stone; it's not a short term process. This wouldn't work if I were trying to be Riley. I'm not going to be Riley. We're very different people. But we both have the same goal: To make the amateur community better."

Smith emphasized that an Amateur Radio license is "a privilege, not a right. When you come to the FCC and you sign up for a license and you get that license, you have agreed to abide by those Rules. That is inherent in the application process. As an applicant and a licensee, you have said, 'I will hereby comply with the Rules that have been enacted by the FCC.' So you have said, 'I will adhere to that.' And if you choose not to, then you are subject to losing that privilege."

Smith is not yet a licensed amateur. She said that she will get her license "someday," but that she did not want to get her license just because her job involves Amateur Radio: "I didn't want to come into this job and become a ham, saying, 'I'm getting this job so I'm going to be a ham -- not because I'm interested in being a ham, but because it looks better on paper.' So ultimately I will become a ham." Smith said that her father-in-law, when stationed in the FCC"s Field Office in Los Angeles, used to administer the Morse code test to prospective licensees: "So he has challenged me that before I can become an amateur on any level, I must learn Morse code and I must past the test with him administering the Morse code. So I have a challenge. I am going to begin learning Morse code this summer. He is going to start teaching me, so once I have sufficient proficiency, then he will let me take the [Technician] test."

==> FCC HAS DONE "LITERALLY NOTHING" TO COMPLY WITH COURT RULING

On February 25 -- 10 months to the day that the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit released its decision on the ARRL's Petition for Review of the FCC's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/?nc=1> -- ARRL General Counsel, Chris Imlay, W3KD, sent a letter to FCC Acting Chairman Michael Copps, requesting that the Commission "revisit the BPL rules without further delay, and to comply with the obligations placed on it by the Court" <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Feb2509_Letter_to_Copps.pdf>. In its April 2008 decision, the Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission. According to Imlay, "to date, literally nothing has been done by the Commission to comply with these instructions."

In its 2008 ruling, the Court did not vacate the Commission's 2004 BPL rules. Imlay said that the ARRL did not request the Court do so, as the current Part 15 rules governing BPL, "inadequate though they are, were

slightly preferable to the general application of the Part 15 rules to BPL systems in terms of interference prevention." Imlay said that the FCC's "inaction" since the remand has "served neither BPL deployment, nor Amateur Radio, well."

Imlay pointed out to Copps that without such rules protecting the Amateur Radio Service, Amateur Radio operators have no protection from the interference from BPL systems: "While there are configurations of BPL systems which can adequately reduce the probability of interference ex ante and without significant constraints on BPL deployment, the current BPL rules do not mandate the use of these interference prevention mechanisms."

The Court demanded two things from the FCC in its ruling: release the redacted studies that the Commission relied on for its BPL findings, and provide a "reasoned justification" for an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade, or adopt another factor and provide a reasoned explanation for it.

Regarding the redacted studies, the Court ordered the Commission to "make available for notice and comment the unredacted 'technical studies and data that it has employed in reaching [its] decisions' [with respect to BPL]...and shall make them part of the rulemaking record." The FCC used five substantially redacted field studies that the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) staff conducted of BPL field trials. To date, these unredacted studies have not been released.

The Court also ordered the FCC to "either provide a reasonable justification for retaining an extrapolation factor of 40 dB per decade for access BPL systems sufficient to indicate that it has grappled with the 2005 studies, or adopt another factor and provide a reasoned explanation for it." The 2005 studies refer to those conducted by the Office of Communications, the FCC's counterpart in the United Kingdom. The ARRL submitted these studies to the Court, along with the League's own analysis showing that an extrapolation factor closer to 20 dB per decade was more appropriate, as part of the record in its petition for reconsideration of the FCC's BPL Order. The Court said that the FCC "summarily dismissed" this data in a manner that "cannot substitute for a reasoned explanation." The Court also noted that the record in the FCC proceeding included a study by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration that "itself casts doubt on the Commission's decision."

The extrapolation factor pertains to the rate at which radiated emissions from power lines carrying access BPL decay with distance from the power lines, and therefore the extent to which the radiated energy from the lines can interfere with licensed radio services, such as Amateur Radio.

Imlay said that since its 2004 rulemaking in Docket 04-37 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-245A1.pdf>, BPL technology has "evolved," and the opportunity now presents itself to

craft revised BPL rules that address the "actual interference potential of BPL systems while enabling BPL as a broadband delivery or grid management technology." He reminded Copps that eight months ago, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, met with representatives from the FCC's OET with a plan for BPL. "The revised regulations suggested by ARRL would be sufficient to reduce the potential interference to the point that it would be practical to address such instances on a case-by-case basis," Imlay said. "Compliance is achievable with present BPL technology without significant limitation on BPL deployment."

Calling the Commission "long overdue" in complying with the Court's "very clear and specific" instructions, Imlay said that the Commission's inaction "cannot be allowed to continue. It is necessary to commence further proceedings in ET Docket 04-37 after making the requisite disclosures, and we respectfully urge the Commission to do so without further delay."

Imlay reminded Copps that on his inauguration day earlier this year, President Barack Obama placed a series of goals on the White House Web site. "Among these," Imlay said, "was the following: 'Restore Scientific Integrity to the White House: Restore the basic principle that government decisions should be based on the best-available, scientifically valid evidence and not on ideological predispositions.' The Commission has the opportunity to implement this goal in this Docket proceeding."

==> JULIUS GENACHOWSKI NOMINATED AS NEXT FCC CHAIRMAN

On Tuesday, March 3, President Barack Obama nominated Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/13/10561/>. Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of Obama's from Harvard Law School. Upon Senate confirmation, Genachowski will replace Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps; Copps took over the Commission on January 20, 2009, when then-Chairman Kevin Martin resigned. Genachowski has been widely praised by industry executives and consumer-activist groups -- two groups often at odds -- for his wide-ranging experience and intimate knowledge of technology issues.

"I can think of no one better than Julius Genachowski to serve as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," said President Obama. "He will bring to the job diverse and unparalleled experience in communications and technology, with two decades of accomplishment in the private sector and public service. I know him as the son of immigrants who carries a deep appreciation for this country and the American dream; and as the proud father of three children working with his wife Rachel to be responsible parents in this digital age."

According to the Wall Street Journal, speculation has been rife as to why President Obama had not put forth Genachowski's name before now, saying that "his nomination has centered on the administration's efforts to find at least one more nominee -- more likely two -- to fill other

open spots on the FCC's five-person board. Agency nominations tend to move through the Senate more quickly if a Democratic nominee is paired with a Republican nominee" <http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2009/03/03/genachowskis-fcc-nomination-ends-weeks-of-speculation/>.

The Wall Street Journal said that a number of Republicans -- including FCC Deputy General Counsel Ajit Pai -- have been mentioned as a possible replacement for the seat left vacant by Republican Deborah Taylor Tate when she left the Commission in January <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/05/10541/>. "On the Democratic side, speculation is growing that FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein may not be renominated for the seat he currently holds. South Carolina public utilities commission official Mignon Clyburn (daughter of [Democrat Representative] Jim Clyburn) has been most often mentioned by people close to the Obama team as a candidate for that seat," the Journal reported. "Adelstein could be up for a job elsewhere in the Obama administration, insiders say, possibly at the Agriculture Department, which is going to have $2.5 billion in economic stimulus money to give away for broadband infrastructure."

Acting Chairman Copps said President Obama "made an excellent choice in announcing his intent to nominate Julius Genachowski to be the next Chairman of the FCC. Julius has the knowledge, experience and dedication to lead this Agency forward as we tackle the many challenges confronting the country -- and the Commission. I look forward to the prospect of working with him on a communications agenda focused on serving consumers and the public interest. He will find here a talented and energized team of public servants committed to precisely this goal. I wish him a successful Senate confirmation."

Commissioner Adelstein also added his congratulations: "I warmly congratulate my friend Julius Genachowski on his nomination by President Barack Obama to be Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. He is the right person at the right time for the job. His leadership, experience and intelligence will serve him and the American people well as he takes the helm of the FCC during this pivotal time for our country and the agency. By designating a Chairman with such a strong strategic vision, striking talents, wealth of experience inside and outside the Commission, and practical understanding of technology, President Obama once again demonstrates his commitment to the transformational power of communications technology and innovation."

Commissioner Robert McDowell congratulated Genachowski on his nomination, saying he "will bring a valuable perspective to the Commission with his experience not only in government, but in the private sector. I look forward to working closely with Mr Genachowski on the many important communications challenges that lie ahead for the American people."

After graduating from law school, Genachowski clerked for federal judge Abner Mikva; he also clerked for Supreme Court Justice David Souter.

Genachowski later served as chief counsel to Reed Hundt, chairman of the FCC from 1993-1997. After leaving the FCC, Genachowski was a senior executive at IAC/InterActiveCorp, Barry Diller's e-commerce and media company. He went on to found an investment and advisory firm for digital media companies and co-founded the country's first commercial "green" bank. According to Obama's campaign Web site, Genachowski raised at least $500,000 for Obama during the presidential election campaign.

Early in the Obama presidential campaign, Genachowski urged then-candidate Obama to capitalize on the organizing power of the Internet. The New York Times called Genachowski "a prolific fund-raiser and chairman of the campaign's group of technology-policy advisers, who produced a report advocating an open Internet, diversity in media ownership and a nationwide wireless system for emergency personnel" <http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/g/julius_genachowski/index.html?inline=nyt-per>. The Washington Post, which described Genachowski a "local venture capitalist," credited him with "spearheading Obama's online campaign strategy, which used social networking and other tools to spread Obama's campaign message and raise record campaign contributions" <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/12/AR2009011203417.html>.

Genachowski explained in his Obama campaign blog <http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/blog/juliusgenachowski> that he "was fortunate to chair the group <http://www.barackobama.com/issues/technology/> that advised Senator Obama and the [Presidential] campaign on the tech & innovation plan, a large and hardworking group that generated terrific ideas, rooted in the great work that the Senator and his strong Senate staff have been doing in this area for quite some time."

==> APRIL QST ON THE WAY TO YOUR MAILBOX

The April issue of QST is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Paul Stone, KQ6RJ, discusses how to make your station truly portable in his article "A Removable HF/VHF/UHF Mobile Installation." ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, takes a look at the first 2009 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors in her article "ARRL Board Sets Legislative Agenda, More, at 2009 Annual Meeting." Michael Keane, K1MK, tells about the MIT Wireless Society in "'Rah for Technology: America's Oldest College Radio Club Turns 100." Stephen Warrillow, VK3SN, and Gerard Warrillow, VK3GT, take readers to Australia's alpine region in their cover article, "VK Alpine Winter Mini-expedition."

In his monthly column "This Month in Contesting," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, talks about how to prepare for the contest season by training during what he calls the "off-season." Using his

tips, he says, will get you on the path to a larger score during the 2009-2010 contest season -- and increase your enjoyment of Amateur Radio. Read about the results of the 2008 ARRL International EME Competition and go ahead and start planning for the 2009 IARU HF Championship, scheduled for July 11-12. Find out about other upcoming contests in this month's Contest Corral.

ARRL Contributing Editor Howard Robbins, W1HSR, reviews five dc to ac power inverters. Robbins said that "Modified sine wave (MSW) type inverters offer the most power capability for the money, but we found a wide variation in RF interference generated by the three units tested. The more expensive pure sine wave (PSW) units tested were both RF-quiet and generated a nice sine wave." ARRL Technical Advisor Ken Stuart, W3VVN, reviews the Maha MH-C9000 battery charger, saying this piece of equipment "can help you manage your collection of AA and AAA rechargeable batteries and keep them ready for emergency use. It can also help evaluate those mystery cells from the flea market."

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and expect in the April QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Old Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your April issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> ARRL SOLICITING NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 HIRAM PERCY MAXIM AWARD

The ARRL invites nominations for the 2008 Hiram Percy Maxim (HPM) Memorial Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/hpm.html>. The League's premier youth recognition, the HPM Memorial Award goes annually to a radio amateur under age 21 in recognition of the recipient's accomplishments and contributions "of the most exemplary nature" to both the Amateur Radio community and the local community during the previous calendar year -- 2008 in this instance.

Nomination criteria may include:

* Participation or leadership in organizational affairs at the local or national level (for example: Local radio club, ARES, Net control or participation in civic groups).
* Technical achievement (for example: Building radios or putting up an antenna).
* Operating record (for example: Nets, disaster drills, contests, ARRL November Sweepstakes).
* Recruitment and training of new amateurs (for example: Helping to teach a license class or participation in Jamboree on the Air).
* Public relations activities (for example: Creating a ham radio Web page).

To nominate a deserving candidate, submit a completed nomination form <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/hpm.html> to your ARRL Section

Manager, along with any supporting information and endorsements of ARRL-affiliated clubs and elected or appointed League officials. Section Managers make the formal nominations. There is no limit to the number of nominations an individual or club may submit to a Section Manager, and Section Managers may nominate more than one individual. Section Managers need to have all information in sufficient time to submit a formal nomination to ARRL Headquarters by March 31. A list of Section Managers is available on page 16 of any issue of QST or on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/smlist.html>.

Nomination forms and supporting information should document as thoroughly as possible the Amateur Radio achievements and contributions of the nominee during the previous calendar year. ARRL must receive all supporting documentation by April 15. An award panel reviews the nominations and selects the winner.

HPM Memorial Award winners receive a cash award of $1500 and an engraved plaque. For more information, contact Steve Ewald, WV1X <wv1x@arrl.org>, tel 860-594-0265.

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The green field sleeps in the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: There have been no new sunspots since the recent brief three-day appearance of quickly fading sunspot 1013 on February 24-26. It was another Solar Cycle 24 sunspot, but this is not too encouraging, considering how brief and weak it appeared. There are no predictions for new sunspots, but these events tend to occur suddenly. Sunspot numbers for February 26-March 4 were 12, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.9, 68.9, 70.6, 69.4, 69.2, 69.1 and 69.7 with a mean of 69.5.The estimated planetary A indices were 2, 8, 5, 3, 2, 5 and 7 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 7, 4, 2, 0, 5 and 5 with a mean of 3.6. For more information concerning radio

propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Wordsworth's "Written in March" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/written-in-march/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week is the ARRL International DX Contest (SSB) on March 7-8. The NCCC Sprint is March 6. The Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is March 7 and the Open Ukraine RTTY Championship is March 7-8. Look for the SKCC Weekend Sprint, the UBA Spring Contest (CW), the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest and the NSARA Contest on March 8. The CLARA HF Contest is March 10-11 and March 14-15. Next week, look for the AGCW QRP Contest, the SOC Marathon Sprint and the ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint on March 14. The EA PSK31 Contest and the Idaho QSO Party are on March 14-15. The North American Sprint (RTTY) and the UBA Spring Contest (6 meters) are March 15. The Wisconsin QSO Party is March 15-16. On March 16, be sure to check out the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the Bucharest Contest. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) are March 19. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March 22, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 3, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Ham Radio (Technician) License Course, Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Rick Campbell, KK7B, Wins February QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for February is Rick Campbell, KK7B, for his article "Designing and Building Transistor Linear Power Amplifiers." Congratulations, Rick! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the March issue by Tuesday, March 31.

* US ARDF Championships Registration Now Open: Registration is now open for the next USA Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championships, June 5-7, 2009, in Boston, Massachusetts <http://www.bostonardf.org/>. Radio-orienteers of all skill levels will gather for a practice day, followed by two days of intense competition -- first on 2 meters and then on 80 meters. This year's USA Championships will be combined with the IARU Region 2 championships. The events are open to everyone, with or without a ham license. The contest will be at the Blue Hills Reservation <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/blue.htm>, a 7000 acre open space, about 10 miles south of downtown Boston. To encourage first-timers and foreign visitors, the competition fee will be waived for persons who have never participated in the USA ARDF Championships and for competitors coming from outside North America. Learn more about ARDF here <http://www.homingin.com/>. -- Information provided by ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV

* Get on the Air for the ARRL International DX Phone Contest this Weekend: With the 2009 ARRL International DX CW Contest now history <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/11/10644/?nc=1>, the first full weekend in March brings the next round of competition: The 2009 ARRL DX Phone Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>. Like its CW predecessor, this event focuses on DX station working all US states and Canadian provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period. Just as in the CW contest a couple of weeks ago, US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX stations -- this means stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada. The ARRL International DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 7 to 2359 UTC Sunday, March 8. Complete rules and forms are available online <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>. Why let all this DX pass you by? Get on the air and have some fun!
* "Hints and Kinks": Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint, you will receive $20. Send your hints via e-mail to <h&k@arrl.org>; or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address. Items in "Hints and Kinks" have not been tested by QST or ARRL unless

otherwise stated. Although we can't guarantee that hints published will work for every situation, QST makes every effort to screen for harmful information.

* Get Youth Involved in Amateur Radio: Have you thought about how to convey the allure of Amateur Radio to today's teens? The group at Radio Arcala, OH8X, in Finland, is challenging the world's amateur community to write an essay of no more than 250 words explaining Amateur Radio in young people's terms. For complete information visit <http://www.radioarcala.com> and click on "Young People Terms."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)

Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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56. Vehicle auxiliary battery charging.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-08 07:32:49 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <BrIsl.1886$gm6.506@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2166

I'm looking for advise on how to charge an Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM) battery from the electrical system of a stock Chevrolet Express van. Since the van's starting battery is standard wet cell the voltages needed to charge it are different then those needed to charge AGM batteries. Can anyone suggest how I would go about isolating and charging the AGM battery; that will power my radio equipment, auxiliary internal lighting, external road hazard, and identification lights; without damaging the starting battery. This is to make sure that those loads cannot discharge the starting battery to the point were the vehicle cannot be started.

I'm also considering building a so called pup generator which is really a twelve volt alternator driven by a separate small engine. This would be to support radio operations from the vehicle for long periods without needing to run the vehicle engine. The hope is that the small engine will use a lot less gasoline then the vehicles engine would when run just to recharge the batteries.

Any advise or experience on either challenge would be very welcome.

--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

57. Re: Vehicle auxiliary battery charging.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-08 13:12:26 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <xOOdne8l6cS5WS7UnZ2dnUVZ_uSdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2167

Tom Horne wrote:
> I'm looking for advise on how to charge an Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM)
> battery from the electrical system of a stock Chevrolet Express van.

A device which appears to accomplish this function is described at
http://www.yandina.com/mixedbattery.htm but I'm hoping that someone will
give us an actual circuit since it would be more fun to build one.

73, Steve KB9X

58. Re: Vehicle auxiliary battery charging.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-08 19:38:42 UTC
From: Bruce in alaska <fast@btpost.net>
Message-ID: <fast-36BDE7.11373508032009@netnews.worldnet.att.net>
Source record: 2168

In article <BrIsl.1886$gm6.506@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>,
Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net> wrote:

> I'm looking for advise on how to charge an Absorbed Glass Mat (AGM)
> battery from the electrical system of a stock Chevrolet Express van.
> Since the van's starting battery is standard wet cell the voltages
> needed to charge it are different then those needed to charge AGM
> batteries. Can anyone suggest how I would go about isolating and
> charging the AGM battery; that will power my radio equipment, auxiliary
> internal lighting, external road hazard, and identification lights;
> without damaging the starting battery. This is to make sure that those
> loads cannot discharge the starting battery to the point were the
> vehicle cannot be started.
>
> I'm also considering building a so called pup generator which is really
> a twelve volt alternator driven by a separate small engine. This would
> be to support radio operations from the vehicle for long periods without
> needing to run the vehicle engine. The hope is that the small engine
> will use a lot less gasoline then the vehicles engine would when run
> just to recharge the batteries.
>
> Any advise or experience on either challenge would be very welcome.

Depends on the Total LOADS attached to the AGM from my perspective.
If it were "Me", I would look at a Variable Input, Regulated Output
DC/DC Switching Power Supply, that had the Capability in Watts to stay
even with the applied Loads, on the AGM, averaged over a 24 Hour Period.
You get an Input voltage anywhere between 9 & 18 Vdc, with a Regulated
Output set to the AGM's specific Float Voltage. Just hook it up and
forget it. When your loads exceed the output capability of the DC/DC
Converter, the AGM makes up the difference, and when the loads are less
than the AGM's Float Voltage, the Converter charges the AGM Battery,
back to Float. The Converter drops out at 9 Vdc, so you don't KILL the
Main Battery completely, but you will have to Jump the engine to get
things going again, IF you are so forgetful as to leave the AGM's Loads
running longer than both batteries can sustain, over time. I have used
this design in MANY Emergency Response & Comm's setups and it works very
well.

--
Bruce in alaska
add <path> after <fast> to reply

59. Re: Vehicle auxiliary battery charging.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-09 06:40:27 UTC
From: David Lesher <wb8foz@panix.com>
Message-ID: <gp2dkf$4i2$1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2169

Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net> writes:

>I'm also considering building a so called pup generator which is really
>a twelve volt alternator driven by a separate small engine. This would
>be to support radio operations from the vehicle for long periods without
>needing to run the vehicle engine. The hope is that the small engine
>will use a lot less gasoline then the vehicles engine would when run
>just to recharge the batteries.

Issues there: vertical shaft engines have poorer shaft bearing;
they are seldom use for belt drives.

You'll need flywheel to replace the blade's mass.

Someone on rec.crafts.metalworking makes a precut plate to fit the engine
AND the alternator; I just saw it mentioned... but can't find it now.
--
A host is a host from coast to coast.................wb8foz@nrk.com
& no one will talk to a host that's close........[v].(301) 56-LINUX
Unless the host (that isn't close).........................pob 1433
is busy, hung or dead....................................20915-1433

60. Re: Vehicle auxiliary battery charging.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-12 16:01:57 UTC
From: Fred McKenzie <fmmck@aol.com>
Message-ID: <fmmck-2B2540.11463412032009@nntp.aioe.org>
Source record: 2170

In article <BrIsl.1886$gm6.506@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>,
Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net> wrote:

> I'm also considering building a so called pup generator which is really
> a twelve volt alternator driven by a separate small engine.

Tom-

How small an engine?

You might consider a small gas powered generator that has both 120 VAC and 12 VDC output. They typically specify that the 12 VDC is only for charging batteries.

If their 12 VDC is not compatible with your AGM battery, then how about using the 120 VAC to power the correct charger?

A couple examples are the Honda EU1000i and the older Honda EX650. Both are small, quiet and run for several hours on less than a gallon of gas.

Fred
K4DII

61. Re: Vehicle auxiliary battery charging.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-12 16:02:36 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <9297ec28-f40b-4972-8caa-c25806d718d7@41g2000yqf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2171

On Mar 8, 2:32 am, Tom Horne <horn...@verizon.net> wrote:
>
> I'm also considering building a so called pup generator which is really
> a twelve volt alternator driven by a separate small engine. This would
> be to support radio operations from the vehicle for long periods without
> needing to run the vehicle engine. The hope is that the small engine
> will use a lot less gasoline then the vehicles engine would when run
> just to recharge the batteries.

Ever thought about getting a Hybrid car?

There is a little known secret about switching mode power supplies
that you can usually run them from 100-200V DC. Most hybrid battery
packs are between 100 and 200 volts so the wiring is easy. (Just be
careful to bench test your power supply actually work this way before
you risk your car.) Of course, be careful and don't expect your
warranties on the car or power supply to be honored.. :)

I'm 6'7" so I don't fit in a prius and I cannot afford a hybrid that I
do fit in so I won't be trying this any time soon. But it's fun to
think about. Can you imagine having that much power available for
your mobile station? Heck, how about for running your shack on
emergency power? When the power is on, you can use it to get back and
forth to work.

-= Bob =-

62. [ADMIN] Attention Submitter "Klystron"

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-13 04:45:43 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <gpcoaj$se3$1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2172

User "Klystron" (pool-96-238-69-22.nrflva.east.verizon.net),

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team requests that you reply to us at our administrative contact address below to discuss your recent article submissions so that we may provide any required editorial feedback to you. We would like to initiate a polite, respectful, but two-way, discussion towards what we hope is the shared, positive, goal of getting some of your article submissions eventually approved for our moderated newsgroup. We have been unable to reach you via any other reasonable means in order to initiate this desired two-way discussion.

If you wish to remain anonymous, you may choose to contact us via an anonymous Hotmail or Gmail account, for example. For authentication purposes, please quote back the entire message body of your most recent article submission to us in your reply.

The default Followup-To/Reply-To of this article has been set to our administrative contact address below for your convenience. We look forward to hearing from you.

--
rec.radio.amateur.moderated Admin
rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com

63. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1648 - March 13 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-13 12:05:35 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090313014405.0163aba0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2173
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1648 - March 13 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1648 with a release date of Friday, March 13, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams in the United States mid-west face winter storms; Amateur radio stands down as bush fires subside down-under; the Global Simulated Emergency Test gets moved to April 18th, two on-orbit hamsats come back to life and the FCC busts a pirate radio station that was carrying ads for street gangs. Find out more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1648 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO MEETS THE MIDWEST STORMS

Hams in parts of the United States went on alert as severe weather pelted the central and mid-west states. Jack Parker, W8ISH, reports from Indianapolis:

--

It wasn't the worst tornado outbreak on record, but one that kept Amateur Radio severe weather spotters and National Weather Service people busy. Conditions were ripe last Sunday as severe thunder storms swept across Illinois, Indiana and into Ohio. The National Weather Service confirmed Monday that damage in Illinois and Indiana on Sunday was the result of tornadoes.

The weather service said two tornadoes struck in central Illinois on Sunday. One damaged or destroyed about 30 structures near Champaign, Illinois, while another tornado destroyed a church and farm house near Greenfield. Three people suffered minor injuries and thousands of people lost power.

Weather service radar clocked one cell moving through Central Indiana at better than 80 miles per hour. They believe that cell produced a tornado that destroyed three trailers and damaged 20 others at a mobile home park just west of Ft. Wayne.

Amateur Radio operators feed reports of funnel clouds and wind damage as the swiftly moving storms ripped up homes and farms in southern Indiana. Winds were so powerful they leveled one home and left an empty school bus atop the flattened house in Lawrence County. At least 19 houses were damaged. There were no reports of severe injuries.

In northwest Ohio, high winds tore a roof off of one house, blew the windows out of another and damaged a barn near Defiance. Findlay, Ohio got the double whammy of high winds and torrential rains. The Blanchard River, which runs through downtown, flooded stores and closed dozens of roads. Conditions worsened later this week when a new wave of severe storms brought additional flooding to already stricken areas.

In Bay County, Mich., high wind drove ice over seawalls and into homes along a stretch of Lake Huron beachfront. Authorities evacuated about 30 homes.

Reports of Amateur Radio operators helping with disaster relief following the storms are just now coming in. By the way, March 15 through 21 is severe weather preparedness week in Indiana. During this week people are encouraged to prepare for severe weather and have a plan of what to do if severe weather strikes.

Amateur Radio operators across Indiana have been attending Skywarn classes taught by the weather service officials. Those attending spotter sessions in the coming weeks will certainly have something to talk about.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker, W8ISH.

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According to weather forecasters, more bad weather could be on its way. (W8ISH, ARNewsline(tm))

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO STANDS DOWN FROM VK BRUSH FIRES

Thanks to some needed rain, Australia's bush fires are coming under control and ham radio involvement is finally winding down. This, after more than a month of emergency communications provided by Australia's Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network and other ham radio groups. Mark Dods, VK3XMU, in Box Hill, wraps it all up:

--

Audio report only. Please download the audio newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

The Wireless Institute Civil Emergency Network better known as WICEN is the Australian equivalent of ARES and RACES here in the United States. Dods took a moment in his latest public report to congratulate the Australian ham community on a job well done:

--

Audio report only. Please download the audio newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

Its been a hot summer in the Southern hemisphere and especially in Australia. As their fall season approaches the hams down-under hope that

they will soon be off emergency stand-by alert. (WIA News)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GLOBAL SET ON APRIL 18

Still with rescue radio news, word that the date for the 2009 Global Simulated Emergency Test has been changed to coincide with World Amateur Radio Day which is slated for April 18th. The theme for the day will be "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication" with the event running from 1100 to 1500 hours UTC.

In a change for this and future events, the focus of this years Global Simulated Emergency Test will be on generating and relaying messages in a common format across country borders rather than the information gathering about capabilities which has taken place in the past. It also makes for ideal opportunity to showcase the work of ham radio emergency communications groups around the world.

The Global Simulated Emergency Test is sponsored by Region 1 of the International amateur Radio Union. More information will be posted on the IARU Region One website at www.iaru-r1.org as it becomes available. (GB2RS, IARU, Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: HAM RADIO IN PORTUGAL GETS A SPRING 2009 MAKEOVER

Major changes are coming to amateur radio in Portugal. According to an e-mail from CT1FBF, that nations new structure includes the introduction of a three class licensing system that will parallel the existing classes which have been grandfathered but which will no longer be issued.

In other changes, the minimum age to obtain a Portuguese ham ticket has been lowered to 12. All applicants regardless of age will be required to enter the hobby with a third class license and remain there for at least two years before upgrading. The new 3rd class license will be good for 5 years giving a ham three years in which to upgrade to 2nd class. If a 3rd class ham fails to upgrade he returns to what amounts to SWL status. That means he or she can only use their own station as a listening post and must go to a 2nd grade or higher licensee's station to transmit under the control of that ham.

As to the current and separate station license. That too will be discontinued and is being replaced by the new National Amateur Certificate. It allows a main fixed station, one additional fixed station, a mobile station and a portable station. This permit will have a 10 year life span and is renewable. The new rules also create community stations, club stations and provide for the issuance of special event call signs with a one year license term.

Portugal's new ham radio rules become effective on June 1st. More information in the Portuguese language is on-line at ct-spot dot blogspot dot com. (CT1FBF, CT-Spot News Team)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: MAYOTTE OPERATION HAMPERED BY A SLIM

Someone appears to have pirated a callsign during the recent operation from Mayotte by G3SWH and G3RWL. Both operators have now returned from the island only to find the DX Summit Database showing a number of contacts on SSB listed to F H stroke G3RWL. Only one problem: Neither that callsign nor mode was used by the DXpedition pair.

The only call used from Mayotte by both operators was FH stroke G3SWH and none of their over 10,000 contacts was made using SSB voice. So if you contacted a station using the call G3RWL portable FH and claiming to be on Mayotte, you worked what the DX community calls a slim and no QSL card will be coming your way.

We will have more DX related news later on in this weeks report. (OPDX)

**

BREAK 1

From Los Angeles, California in the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9AA repeater serving Evergreen Park Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: TEXAS HAMS RALLY AGAINST PROPOSED MOBILE PHONE LAW

Hams in Texas have been peppering their state legislators with e-mails. This, after learning about twin bills in the House and Senate that were both aimed at outlawing any sort of mobile radio operation that was not entirely hands free.

As we go to air it appears as if the campaign has been partially successful. They have apparently succeeded in getting an amendment attached to Senate measure SB582 that exempts federally licensed radio amateurs but at airtime are still trying to convince the author of the house version to accept an exclusion that would keep the bill from affecting amateur radio operations from a moving vehicle.

And this late word. Texas State Representative Jose Menendez's office says that it is considering offering an amendment to HB 220 to include similar language to that found in SB582.

As of now both bills are still in their respective legislative committee's. We are told that ARRL Legislative Action Assistant Glen Reid, K5FX, in Austin has been the ham radio point man in negotiations with senate and house leaders with the full backing of radio amateurs state wide. We will let you know how Texas ham radio community fares on this one in a future Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARNewsline(tm) from various sources)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FLORIDA BUSTS PIRATE ADVERTISING GANGS

Federal Communications Commission officials and deputies from the Orange County Florida Sheriff's gang unit have busted a pirate radio station. One they say was reportedly broadcasting information on where to buy drugs.

Authorities say the station calling itself "Street Heat" allegedly broadcast live advertisements for criminal gangs and discussions of where to buy drugs. Arrested in the March 6th raid were Balthazard Senat and Christopher Robert Roth. Both were charged with unauthorized transmission and possession of cannabis with intent to deliver.

The sheriff's office said a two-week investigation found Senat was operating a pirate radio station which broadcast on a frequency 91.3 Mhz. They say Roth was a disk jockey for the radio station and that the station was actually located in his bedroom.

A judge set Senat's bond at $1,250 and Roth's bond was set at $1,500. (Published reports)

**

ENFORCEMENT: OVER POWER CONSUMER TRANSMITTER LEADS TO FCC CITATION

The distributor of the Whole House FM Transmitter is in trouble with the Commission for, among other things, marketing a device with too much RF power. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

--

Back on September 29, 2008, the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau initiated an investigation into whether TAW Global, LLC, of Portage, Michigan had been marketing an unauthorized and non-compliant radio frequency device in the United States, called the Whole House FM Transmitter. In its response to a Letter of Inquiry the company responded that it began importing the Whole House FM Transmitter in May 2004. Also that it had imported a total of 18,371 units, and that it had distributed and sold in the United States a total of 11,689 units through its website.

TAW Global also stated that the Whole House FM Transmitter is manufactured by Richfield Electronics Limited based in China, and that it is certified. According to TAW, it exercised due diligence by receiving verbal assurances and documentation from Richfield verifying that the FM Transmitter does indeed meet FCC requirements and has a proper ID. TAW did however acknowledge that the Whole House FM Transmitter was not properly labeled with the FCC ID, as required by Section 2.925 of the Rules.

But the FCC looks at things differently. In its February 26th official citation to TAW Global the FCC says that the consumer transmitter does not meet its specifications. It says that tests conducted by its Office of Engineering and Technology shows that samples tested exceed the power levels authorized under its rules.

The FCC ends by telling TAW Global that if after it receives the letter of Citation it again violates the rules regarding such devices that it will be subject to a fine of up to $16,000 for each offense and each day the offense is permitted to continue.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

--

TAW Global, LLC was given 30 days from the date the Citation was issued to respond. (FCC, CGC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: COLLEGE STATION FINED FOR INCOMPLETE PAPERWORK

The FCC this has fined Wayne State College station KWSC FM $7,200. This, in a case involving proper maintenance of the public file.

The small Nebraska station was issued notice of apparent liability for $9,000 in August 2005. In September it filed a response asking for a reduction based on the corrective measures it had taken. Specifically, KWSC had not placed quarterly issues and programs lists in its public inspection file for a period of about three years. When it managers realized its error they began including them. The station also notified the FCC noting that it had records of its programming, if not in the required form.

But the FCC rejected its arguments but noted the station's history of compliance and reduced the fine to $7,200. KWSC was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

ON THE NET: BE WARY OF 3rd PARTY APPLICATIONS ON FACEBOOK

Facebook users are being victimized by several variants of a rogue application. One that appears to have been designed to exploit public interest in the controversy surrounding the networks recent changes in its terms of service. Rebecca Bruce has more:

--

According to the Internet security firm Trend Micro, the rogue program posts a notification messages to user profiles that falsely claims a friend had just reported the user for violating the site's terms of service. The messages advises recipients to click on a phony Facebook application link to find out why.

Now here's where it gets interesting. If someone fall for the bait and does go click, he or she is taken to a rogue application called "facebook closing down." Once installed, it spams the victim's friend list with the same warning message, and possibly harvests personal information in the process.

This is the second such attack in the past two weeks. Recently a rogue application called "The Error Check System" was detected and is suspected to also have been harvesting personal information from those duped into installing it.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rebecca Bruce in Los Angeles.

--

Facebook only began its application verification program last month. As such it is urging its users to exercise more control over the third-party Facebook applications that they accept. (InfoOnLine, others)

**

DIGITAL TV CHANGEOVER NEWS: LITTLE PROBLEM ON FEBRUARY 17

Now that the digital transition has begun in earnest, early reports suggest only a relatively modest level of disruption for television viewers. The National Association of Broadcasters said stations that made the change on February 17th averaged only 50 to 200 calls from viewers while the Federal Communications Commission has received a total of about 28,000 calls.

The NAB said 421 stations made the shift on February 17th joining 220 local affiliates that had already changed to digital in advance of the new June 12 deadline. The NAB says that most of the calls were questions about connecting converter boxes and rescanning them. (RW)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: WHITE SPACE DEVICE TESTING COMES TO CALIFORNIA

The FCC has granted a new experimental permit to operate in the 174 to 216, 470 to 608 and 614 to 698 MHz bands has been granted to Adaptrum, Inc. This, for the testing of so-called white space devices within State of California. Translated, this means testing on TV Channels 7 through 51 with the exception of Channel 37 which is reserved for Radio Astronomy.

White spaces refer to frequencies allocated to a broadcasting service but not used locally. In the United States, the term has gained prominence after the FCC ruled that unlicensed devices that can guarantee that they will not interfere with assigned broadcasts can use the empty white spaces in spectrum. The call sign issued to Adaptrum experiment with white space devices is WE2XXI. More is on-line at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-288835A1.doc (CGC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: UK STUDENT DEVELOPS PARTICLE DETECTOR

A 17-year-old student, Peter Hadfield, , has won the first ever United Kingdom's National Young Scientist of the Year award. This, for developing a hand-held particle detector called Lucid. Lucid will be sent into space on a Surrey Satellite Technology SSTL satellite and used for research in 2010. (Southgate)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: RCA DONATES STATION TO FLORIDA CLUB

The Education Committee of the Radio Club of America says that it has received its first donation of a complete amateur radio station that will be given to the Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Club in Orlando, Florida. The Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Club has a specially equipped trailer that it takes to schools to demonstrate amateur radio communications. It also goes into schools and children's hospitals to demonstrate how to make contact with the International Space Station via ham radio. The club says it's extremely grateful to The Radio Club of America for the donation of the much-needed equipment. (RCA, WB2MGP)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: HONORING OUR TROOPS WITH ARMAD DAY 2009

Amateur Radio military Appreciation Day or ARMAD will be held this year on May 23rd. Planners hope to encourage all radio clubs and their operators to get on the air and show thanks, support, and appreciation to our troops, military retired, and veterans. More is on-line at www.armad.net (ARMAD)

**

SOCIAL SCENE: IDAHO IN APRIL

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that retired FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, will be the banquet speaker at the first ever Idaho Section Hamfest. The event takes place the weekend of April 24th through the 26th at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Boise. The event is sponsored by the Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club. More is on-line at www dot voiceofidaho dot org. (Via e-mail)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: WELLINGTON RADIO EXPO '09

And if you plan to be in New Zealand before months end, you might want to add the Wellington Region EXPO '09 to your travel plans. The date for this event is Saturday March 28th at the Knox Church Hall in Lower Hutt. Doors open to the public at 10 am local time and the entry feel is only entry $4.00 New Zealand. More information is on-line at http://www.nzart.org.nz/events/index.html (NZART)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-27 BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE AS FM REPEATER IN SPACE

Some good news from up in space. This with word that the Amsat Oscar 27 satellite has been brought back to life. Bruce Tennany, K6PZW, reports:

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The Amsat Oscar 27 satellite failed back in December, 2008 and went off the air. The control team pursued what it termed as a strategy to drain the batteries in the hopes of resetting the locked up modem.

The idea worked and during February the control team managed to upload the high level control software needed to bring AO-27 back on-line. They then took a week to collect data to check on the battery status and conduct an on-orbit checkout before making ready to return the satellite to operation to its analog mode.

As of March 1st the AO-27 control team reports that telemetry is looking good. During several passes over the US they turned on the analog voice repeater with a target for full operation on or about March 7th. You will easily know if its there as it will be in its FM repeater mode with an uplink at 145.850 MHz and a downlink 436.795 MHz.

Give it a try.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

More is on line at www dot ao27 dot org. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-7 SPRINGS BACK TO LIFE

Still with amazing news from space, an aging ham radio satellite has sprung back to life. This with words that the Amsat Oscar 7 UHF Beacon at 435.100 MHz has been reported as becoming operational.

The satellites 70 centimeter beacon was monitored with very strong signals during February 28th passes and also since then with satellite telemetry in RTTY format is being copied. Some listeners reported that the beacon initially sounded as if it was in a two-state mode that sounded a bit like RTTY in idle. Successful RTTY decodes have since been accomplished.

AO-7 is one of the oldest ham radio birds still on-orbit. It was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on board a Delta 2310 rocket way back on November 15, 1974. (ANS, N1JEZ)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SA HAMSAT ON LAUNCH HOLD AGAIN

The launch of the South Africa's SumbandilaSat ham radio satellite has been delayed again. This time due to a technical problem at the Russian Baikonur

Cosmodrome launch site.

The Director-General of the South African Department of Science and Technology is Dr. Phil Mjwara. He told S A AMSAT that the launch agency in Russia had sent a message that the launch would probably be at some time in May this year.

Dr. Mjwara said that as the Russian launch agency had not been specific in its communication. Therefore he will not make a public announcement until the Department of Science and Technology had received full details about the reasons for the delay and a new confirmed date.

It is speculated that the wait is being caused by problems with the on time delivery of one of the other payloads. Meantime, South Africa Amsat's SumbandilaSat is still safely stored at the satellite test range. (SA AMSAT)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: KEPLER MISSION BLASTS OFF

NASA's Kepler mission to search out habitable planets the far reaches of the universe successfully launched from Cape Canaveral on Friday, March 6th. Kepler is designed to find the first Earth-size planets orbiting stars at distances where water could pool on the planet's surface. Liquid water is believed to be essential for the formation of life.

Kepler is a NASA Discovery mission. By radioing its findings back to Earth, Kepler will give scientists their first look at the frequency of Earth size planets in our galaxy as well as the frequency of these planets that could theoretically be habitable.

More information about the mission is on-line at www.nasa.gov/kepler . (NASA)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: SATELLITE COLLISION POSES FUTURE ON-ORBIT PROBLEMS

Debris from a recent satellite collision between an out of control Russian military satellite a working U.S. Iridium commercial bird and could circle Earth for up to 10,000 years. This, according to Russia's Mission Control chief who admits that the debris field could threaten the safety of many other satellites in an already crowded low Earth orbit area of space.

Vladimir Solovyov is the Mission chief. He says that the smashup occurred some 800 kilometer above Earth. He notes that this is the busiest part of near-Earth space and is a very popular orbit which is used by Earth tracking and communications satellites.

Solovyov says that the clouds of debris pose a serious danger to all of them and especially those made of light weight alloys because debris fragments travel a very high speed and can damage a spacecraft. (Space.com)

**

WORLDBEAT: LACK OF FUNDS CAUSES UK REPEATER TO GO QRT

Time has taken its toll on a popular United Kingdom repeater and now there is no money to bring it up to the standards needed for it to continue in service. Because of this, the GB3WA, 70 centimeter repeater located near the village of Kilmington in South Wiltshire, has been permanently taken out of service.

For it to have been saved from extinction the repeater needed several of its 30 year old cavities replaced and a new power amplifier to bring it up to full output. The site needs a new tower to support both the repeaters antennas replacing the temporary mast that's now in use.

Unfortunately, the funds are just not available and so the sponsoring groups has made the decision to remove the repeater from the air. You can read more at the URL in this weeks printed Newsline report.

(DO NOT READ http://twxrg.web.googlepages.com/home) (GB2RS)

**

DX

In D-X, W5JON advises a correction in his operation from St. Lucia. John tells Newsline that he will be active stroke as J6 from Marigot Bay from March 24th to April 2nd with activity on 160 through 6 meters. He will also be on for the CQ WPX SSB Contest on March 28th and 29th. QSL via W5JON

DL3OCH reports that his trip to Nigeria will be slightly delayed. Listen out for him to start his activity later than the March 5th date that he had previously announced. He has also reported that he has received his Nigerian license and will use the callsign 5N0EME. QSL via DL3OCH.

IK4ALM, will be operating portable 6W from Senegal between March 29th and April 9th. Activity will be on 40 through 10 meters using CW and SSB with 100 watts into a ground plane. QSL via IK4ALM.

ON4AEO, will lead a team of operators on a DXpedition to Mozambique from April 9th to the 13th. The call sign will be C-91-F-C and They hope to activate 80 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. The QSL Manager is ON4CJK.

DL3KWF and DL3KWR are reported active from Madiera Island signing portable C-T-3 from the Hotel Royal Orchid. They should be there through March 19th operating primarily C-W on 30, 17 and 12 meters. There may be some RTTY and PSK-31 as well. QSL via their home call signs.

Lastly, listen out for LA3JJ portable EA8 from Isla de Fuerteventura in the Canary Island. He will be at that location through March 26th operating 30 and 17 meters using C-W only. QSL this operation to LA3KK direct or by the Bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: PAVING THE INFORMATION SUPER HIGHWAY

And finally this week, discarded electronic hardware, including bits and pieces that built the information superhighway, can be recycled into an additive that makes super-strong asphalt paving material for real highways. Amateur Radio Newsline's Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, has the details:

--

Researchers in China think that they have the answer as to what to do with old computers, cellphones, and even old ram radio gear. They say to use them to literally pave highways and by-ways around the world.

A study by a research team headed by Professor Zhenming Xu describes the development of a new recycling process that can convert discarded electronic circuit boards into an asphalt modifier. The material makes high-performance paving material asphalt that is cheaper, longer lasting, and more environmentally friendly than conventional asphalt, the scientists report.

The researchers note that millions of tons of electronic waste pile up each year. The printed circuit boards used in personal computers, cell phones, and other electronic gear contain toxic metals such as lead and mercury. This in turn poses a difficult problem in disposing of them in an environmentally friendly and safe manner.

But the research group found that the boards, which provide mechanical support and connections for the electronic components,contain glass fibers and plastic resins. They reasoned that these could be re-used to strengthen asphalt paving.

Now, the scientists are describing a new recycling method that quickly separates the toxic metals from circuit boards, yielding a fine, metal-free powder. In laboratory tests, hen mixed into asphalt the powder produced a stronger paving material less apt to soften at high temperatures.

When this research might lead to actual real world trials of the recycled P-C boards as highway pavement material is unknown.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm, Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, in Shelby, North Carolina.

--

Who knows. One of these days you may be operating mobile on some newly paved highway, hit a bump and think to yourself: "Hmmm. Was that my old Pentium computer or my 2 meter H-T?" (ScienceDaily)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is

newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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64. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 10 (Friday, March 13, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-13 20:10:28 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090313200159.858E13126F@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2174
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 10
March 13, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Agenda for WRC-11 Poses Opportunities and Challenges for Hams
* + ARRL Seeks Nominations for Annual Awards
* + Application Deadline Approaching for ARRL Teachers Institute on
Wireless Technology
* + Hams to Activate Midway Atoll as K4M in October 2009
* + GAREC-2009: Emergency Communications Across Borders
* + US Coast Guard to Discontinue LORAN Stations
* Solar Update
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This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Two New ARRL Section Managers, Six Remain in Office
+ NASA Delays Discovery's Trip to ISS

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> AGENDA FOR WRC-11 POSES OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGES FOR HAMS

The next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-11)
<http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=conferences&rlink=wrc-11&la
ng=en> is scheduled for fall 2011. These periodic conferences of the
Member States of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
consider allocations to the various radio services -- including the
Amateur Radio Service -- and evaluate what new technologies and
applications should be addressed by future conferences.

The agenda for WRC-11, developed by the delegates at the last WRC in
Geneva in 2007 (WRC-07), was formally adopted by the ITU Council in
2008. There are 25 agenda items addressing potential new or revised
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spectrum allocations to existing services. Of most interest to amateurs is agenda item 1.23, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services."

"This agenda item is the highest item on my long term priority list," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX. "We are fortunate that WRC-11 presents an opportunity for a new secondary allocation in the medium waves. While the outcome in 2011 is far from certain, our experience in other bands -- most notably 30 meters -- indicates Amateur Radio's compatibility with certain other services as a secondary user."

Price said that some WRCs have posed great challenges for Amateur Radio, with blocks of spectrum potentially at risk. "This was the case at WRC-03 and WRC-07, which posed a very real potential reallocation of portions of the 40 meter band in Region 2 to HF broadcasting," he said. "The agenda for WRC-11 does not pose any threats to Amateur Radio as clear or as overt as those faced in prior years." Price and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, are monitoring developments on a number of other agenda items that could affect Amateur Radio if they take unanticipated turns, including:

* Agenda item 1.14, considering requirements for and implementation of the radiolocation service (radar) between 30-300 MHz.
* Agenda item 1.15, considering possible allocations between 3-50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
* Agenda item 1.19, considering regulatory measures to enable software-defined and cognitive radio systems.
* Agenda item 1.22, examining the effect of emissions from short-range devices.

"Oceanographic radar is perhaps our biggest defensive issue," Price said. "Fortunately, its proponents, at least domestically and at least at this time, are acknowledging that sharing with Amateur Radio would be problematic."

WRC-11 is tentatively scheduled for October 24-November 18, 2011, in Geneva.

==> ARRL SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL AWARDS

Each year, the ARRL Board of Directors has the opportunity to select recipients for a number of awards that honor Amateur Radio operators. These awards, designed to recognize educational and technological pursuits in Amateur Radio, represent many categories, including education and technical excellence. If you know of someone who deserves to be recognized by the ARRL for the service and dedication they have shown on behalf of Amateur Radio, now is the time to submit their name for consideration. Nominations and supporting information should be submitted to ARRL Headquarters by March 31, 2009. Nomination forms and further information on these awards are found on the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/edunom.html>.

The ARRL Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/herb-tor.html> goes to a volunteer Amateur Radio instructor. The ARRL Professional Educator of the Year Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/award/pey-tor.html> is given to a professional teacher who has incorporated Amateur Radio into his or her class curriculum.

The ARRL Microwave Development Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/instructor/instructor/awards.html> is presented to a licensed radio amateur (or to individuals who are licensed radio amateurs) who contribute to the development of the Amateur Radio microwave bands.

The ARRL Technical Service Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/instructor/instructor/awards.html> recognizes a licensed radio amateur (or individuals who are licensed radio amateurs) who provides Amateur Radio technical assistance or training to others.

The ARRL Technical Innovation Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/instructor/instructor/awards.html> is granted to the licensed radio amateur (or to individuals who are licensed radio amateurs) who develops and applies new technical ideas or techniques in Amateur Radio.

The ARRL also offers an award to recognize someone who has served admirably as an ARRL Section Manager. The Knight Distinguished Service Award recognizes exceptionally notable contributions by a Section Manager to the health and vitality of the League. The first such award was presented to Joe T. Knight, W5PDY (now SK) in 2003 -- for whom the award was named -- in recognition of his exemplary service not only as the ARRL New Mexico Section Manager for more than a quarter century, but also for his willingness to share his knowledge and skills.

The Knight Distinguished Service Award may be awarded to an ARRL Section Manager who has distinguished himself or herself in accordance with the following ideals: Exceptionably notable contributions over and extended period of time within his or her Section and beyond; demonstrated efforts that have contributed to the health and vitality of the ARRL and its Field Organization, and displayed actions that are in the spirit of the unselfish contributions of Joe T. Knight, W5PDY. Nominations may be made by any ARRL member and shall be accompanied by a narrative of the accomplishments of the nominee identifying the long term contributions of the nominee to ARRL and its Field Organization.

If you have questions on any of these awards, please contact Steve Ewald, WV1X, via e-mail <wv1x@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0265.

==> APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING FOR ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE ON WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY

Donors to the ARRL Education & Technology Program (ETP) fund <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/> have made it possible to offer seven sessions of the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology this summer <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. According to Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, she is receiving applications for the Teachers Institute daily, but seats are still available in most sessions: "If you are a teacher -- or you know one who may be interested in exploring the world of wireless technology in their classroom -- now is the time to apply!"

This year, Teachers Institute sessions will be offered in Roswell, New Mexico (May 26-29); Rocklin, California (June 15-18); Tucson, Arizona (June 15-18); Viera, Florida (June 23-26); Berrien Springs, Michigan (June 29-July 2); Dayton, Ohio (July 6-9), and Newington, Connecticut (July 27-30). Educators interested in the New Mexico, California and Arizona sessions need to apply no later than April 15, while those interested in the sessions in Florida, Michigan, Ohio and Connecticut have until May 15 to apply.

Johnson said that wireless technologies "underpin so many areas of daily life. It is increasingly important for today's education to include at least some basic understanding of the technology involved," she said. "One of ARRL's goals for the Education & Technology Program, and the professional development opportunity that we have developed with the Teachers Institute, is to build wireless technology literacy among America's citizens. It's equally essential to provide an opportunity at an early age for students who will become tomorrow's scientists and engineers to engage their imagination with the fascinating world of radio science."

Teachers who are interested in exploring the basic principles of electronics, satellite communications (including communications with weather satellites), radio signals and radio science, radio astronomy, scientific data collection, microcontroller technology and robotics -- and who want to gain a transmissible understanding of the wireless technologies that are so vital to so many areas of everyday life -- will want to investigate this opportunity. The instruction and resources presented in the seminar provide the tools to engage with subject matter in core classroom curricula in science, math, geography and language arts. The resources offered at the Teachers Institute can be adapted to engage students in the primary levels through university. Applicants do not need to be licensed radio amateurs. Teachers need to complete an application <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/TeachersInstituteApplication2009.doc> for this 4 day, expenses-paid seminar. Check the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html> for more information.

For the first time this year, Johnson said that the ARRL is offering an Advanced Teachers Institute, open to six graduates of the TI program that will focus on satellite communications. "This opportunity has been enthusiastically received and is at full enrollment," she said. "As demonstrated by the application response, we are pleased that the

teachers who have participated in the past see the value of the resources that the ARRL offers through this program and are eager to take their exploration of wireless technology to the next level."

If you would like to contribute to this very important educational outreach of the ARRL to students in classrooms across the US, you can find more information here <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/education/education.html>.

==> HAMS TO ACTIVATE MIDWAY ATOLL AS K4M IN OCTOBER 2009

Earlier this year, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced that they would open Midway Atoll <http://www.fws.gov/midway/> to Amateur Radio operations for two weeks only, from October 5-19, 2009 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/27/10596/>. Tom Harrell, N4XP, of Monroe, Georgia, and Dave Johnson, WB4JTT, of Aitkin, Minnesota, have put together a team of 19 operators from all over the world to activate Midway Atoll for a 10 day period as K4M <http://www.midway2009.com/>. This the first time that USFWS has allowed amateurs to operate from the wildlife refuge since 2002.

"Midway ranks as Number 24 worldwide and Number 13 in Europe on DX Magazine's Most Wanted List <http://www.dxpub.com/>," Harrell and Johnson said. "Activity will be on 6-160 meters with 5 to 6 stations. At least one station will be active on 20 meters around the clock for those who need it for a new country. Major efforts will be made to meet the demand to the most needed geographical areas, the low bands and RTTY." The team has posted a list of planned frequencies on their Web site <http://www.midway2009.com/kh4freqs.html>.

The co-leaders said that travel to the atoll is only allowed by chartered aircraft: "Because of the size of the aircraft, the team is presented with unique challenges. As such, the aircraft will only be able to carry the team, requiring the equipment to be shipped by boat some months ahead."

In January, the USFWS started a program to encourage visitors to experience Midway's wildlife, history and culture, as well as non-wildlife-dependent activities -- including Amateur Radio. To ensure the safety of the wildlife on the Refuge, Midway Atoll Refuge Manager Matt D. Brown said that Amateur Radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, and only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island. Brown also said that while portable generators will not be permitted, there is 120 V power available at the operation site; any modifications to the island power grid/infrastructure must be approved in advance and be paid for entirely by the radio operators.

Brown said that the K4M team will also be required to attend a refuge orientation shortly after their arrival designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection and overall enjoyment of the wildlife refuge. "Although determined to be a wildlife-compatible activity,"

Brown said, "this [Amateur Radio] opportunity is being conducted on a trial basis." Brown has the authority to discontinue the activity at any time, based on wildlife protection and conservation goals.

Midway is located in the North Pacific Ocean (near the northwestern end of the Hawaiian archipelago) -- approximately 1250 miles northwest of Honolulu -- about one-third of the way between Honolulu and Tokyo. At less than 150 miles east of the International Dateline, Midway Atoll is truly "midway" around the world from the Greenwich meridian. The atoll is an unincorporated territory of the United States and is the only atoll/island in the Hawaiian archipelago not part of the State of Hawaii. Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge is owned and administered by the USFWS on behalf of the American people and has international significance for both its historic and natural resources.

In 1988, Midway became a National Wildlife Refuge, at the time subject to the primary jurisdiction of the Navy. In 1993, the Navy decided to close the Naval Air Facility after more than 50 years of continuous operation. On May 20, 1996, custody and accountability for Midway Atoll transferred from the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Interior. President Clinton signed Executive Order 13022 on October 31, 1996, effectively superseding earlier orders assigning responsibility for Midway to the Navy. A new code of regulations governing activities at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was published in the Federal Register on March 10, 1998.

When Midway became a national wildlife refuge, it joined a network of more than 500 separate units of the National Wildlife Refuge System, encompassing nearly 93 million acres, throughout all 50 states and several territories and possessions. Refuges represent the only Federal lands set aside and managed principally for the conservation of fish and wildlife.

==> GAREC-2009: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS ACROSS BORDERS

The Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC) -- hosted by the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) -- will be held in conjunction with the JARL Ham Fair <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-6_ham-fair/ham-fair.htm> at Tokyo Big Sight on August 24-25, 2009. Registration for GAREC-2009 will begin in early May.

According to GAREC 2009 Organizing Committee Member Seppo Sisatto, OH1VR, this year's theme is "Emergency Communications across Borders." The program will include presentations about operations during disasters that have occurred since GAREC-2008 in Friedrichshafen, Germany, as well as discussions about new developments in technology and their application in emergency communications. The detailed program will be published in late April.

All Amateur Radio operators interested in Emergency Communications are invited to participate in GAREC. The fifth GAREC continues the work of

its four forerunners: After the first and the second GAREC in Tampere, Finland, the third GAREC in Huntsville, Alabama, USA, and the fourth GAREC in 2008, this year's event will be the first GAREC conference in IARU Region 3. The proceedings and the statements of the 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 conferences can be found at the GAREC Web site <http://www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec/index.html>.

Sisatto pointed out that the theme of GAREC-2009 mirrors the theme chosen by the IARU for World Amateur Radio Day <http://www.iaru.org/worldAmRadioDay.html> on April 18, "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication."

==> US COAST GUARD TO DISCONTINUE LORAN STATIONS

Last month, the US Coast Guard <http://www.uscg.mil/> announced that due to economic conditions, they would be closing down the 24 LORAN-C (Long Range Aid to Navigation) <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm> stations operated under the auspices of the USCG. LORAN stations provide navigation, location and timing services for both civil and military air, land and marine users. According to the USCG, LORAN-C is approved as an en route supplemental air navigation system for both Instrument Flight Rule (IFR) and Visual Flight Rule (VFR) operations. The LORAN-C system serves the 48 continental states, their coastal areas and parts of Alaska.

LORAN-A stations were developed beginning in World War II, and signals were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. LORAN-A was responsible for reduced amateur radio operations, including frequency and power limitations, on 160 meters in the United States. In 1979, the Coast Guard phased out the LORAN-A stations; they were replaced by LORAN-C stations. The newer stations operated on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on the 160 meter amateur band due to LORAN functions, to be dropped.

According to the Coast Guard, the nation's oldest continuous sea-going service will continue to operate the current LORAN-C system through the end of fiscal year 2009; it is in the process of preparing detailed plans for implementing the fiscal year 2010 budget. According to USCG Vice Commandant and Chief Operating Officer Vice Admiral V. S. Crea, further details of the LORAN-C termination plan will be available upon the submission of the President's full budget. -- Some information provided by Cliff Appel, W7CGA

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Where Suns peep in every sheltered place" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Last week's report again mentioned briefly appearing sunspots and it happened again this week. For just two days, another Solar Cycle 23 spot appeared, number 1014. The latitude of the spot was consistent with an old and fading solar cycle. As this period of quiet Sun drags on, statistic based projections of a return to solar activity continue to be pushed out. Sunspot numbers for March 5-11 were 0, 12, 12, 0, 0, 0

and 0 with a mean of 3.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.2, 69.1, 69.1, 68.9, 69.1, 68.8, and 68.9 with a mean of 69. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 1, 8, 2, 3 and 3 with a mean of 3.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 0, 0, 7, 1, 3 and 2 with a mean of 2.3. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Clare's "Young Lambs" <http://johnclare.blogspot.com/2005/03/young-lambs.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for the AGCW QRP Contest, the SOC Marathon Sprint and the ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint on March 14. The EA PSK31 Contest and the Idaho QSO Party are on March 14-15. The North American Sprint (RTTY) and the UBA Spring Contest (6 meters) are March 15. The Wisconsin QSO Party is March 15-16. On March 16, be sure to check out the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the Bucharest Contest. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and the RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (SSB) are March 19. Next week is the Feld Hell Sprint, the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest and the 10-10 International Mobile Contest on March 21. On March 21-22, be sure to tune in for the SARL VHF/UHF Contest, the Russian DX Contest, the Oklahoma QSO Party and the North Dakota QSO Party. The BARTG HF RTTY Contest and the Virginia QSO Party are March 21-23. The UBA Spring Contest (2 meters), the 9K 15 Meter Contest and the QRP Homebrewer Sprint are March 23. The SKCC Sprint is March 25. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March 22, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 3, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Ham Radio (Technician) License Course, Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful

feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Two New ARRL Section Managers, Six Remain in Office: Daniel L. Pruitt, AE6SX, of Fresno -- the only nominee for San Joaquin Valley Section Manager -- will take over from Charles McConnell, W6DPD. Tom Dick, KF2GC, of Saranac Lake, will be the Section Manager in Northern New York. Tom -- who served as Section Manager from 2000-2006 -- is taking the reins from Tom Valosin, WB2KLD; Dick's term will be 18 months. The following incumbent Section Managers were unopposed after being nominated. They will begin new two-year terms of office in July: Jim Cross, WI3N, Maryland-DC; Al Shuman, K1AKS, New Hampshire; Rich Krohn, N2SMV, Northern New Jersey; Joe Giraudo, N7JEH, Nevada; Bob Beaudet, W1YRC, Rhode Island, and John Dyer, AE5B, West Texas. All terms begin July 1.

* NASA Delays Discovery's Trip to ISS: Due to a leak in the venting system outside the giant external fuel tank, NASA has decided to postpone the launch of a space shuttle headed to the International Space Station (ISS), originally scheduled for 9:20 EDT on March 12. The launch has been rescheduled for Sunday, March 15 at 7:43 PM EDT. Discovery will carry a crew of seven astronauts, including Flight Engineer Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA; Wakata is with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). He will stay on the ISS, replacing Flight Engineer Sandra Magnus, KE5FYE, who will return home on Discovery. Wakata is scheduled to return to Earth when Endeavour launches to the ISS in June 2009; Flight Engineer Timothy Kopra, KE5UDN, will replace Wakata. Discovery's 14 day mission, which has four spacewalks scheduled, will deliver the fourth and final set of solar array wings to the ISS <http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/312777main_fs-2009-01-004-jsc-Web.pdf>. With the completed array, the station is expected to be able to provide enough electricity when the crew size is doubled to six in May. The shuttle also will carry a replacement for a failed unit in a system that converts urine to drinkable water.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast"

compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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65. Re: Vehicle auxiliary battery charging.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-14 16:37:33 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <igQul.101$6%.11@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2175

"Fred McKenzie" <fmmck@aol.com> wrote in message
news:fmmck-2B2540.11463412032009@nntp.aioe.org...
> In article <BrIsl.1886$gm6.506@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>,
> Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net> wrote:
>
> > I'm also considering building a so called pup generator which is really
> > a twelve volt alternator driven by a separate small engine.
>
> Tom-
>
> How small an engine?
>
> You might consider a small gas powered generator that has both 120 VAC
> and 12 VDC output. They typically specify that the 12 VDC is only for
> charging batteries.
>
> If their 12 VDC is not compatible with your AGM battery, then how about
> using the 120 VAC to power the correct charger?
>
> A couple examples are the Honda EU1000i and the older Honda EX650. Both
> are small, quiet and run for several hours on less than a gallon of gas.
>
> Fred
> K4DII
>
Actually, the answer is to use a regulated supply and run from the 120v
because the 12v winding is usually skimpy and unregulated. I use an EM500
to drive an Astron 35, modified for battery float. The 12v DC winding is
only rated 10A Unreg.

66. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-15 06:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1237096801@panix.com>
Source record: 2176
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.8 2008/11/27 18:50:32
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. Crossposts of regular discussion articles between rec.radio.amateur.moderated and other discussion newsgroups are not permitted.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/ announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers, and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header, containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the moderators if one is not already provided.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations | campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or | reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be | permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked | to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such | products or services. |

Mentions of small amounts of free items for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. | However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information | is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing | thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no | information about what a user should expect to find there will be | rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for | rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which | itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as | a URL containing embedded name-calling). |

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar

government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

67. Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-15 13:38:21 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gpj0c0$6hj$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2177

Anyone checked out the digital over-the-air broadcasts? My old analog, portable TV in my exercise room is not hooked to cable. So I got one of the converter boxes and tried it out. I was impressed with the improvement in the picture. We're kind of marginal for reception of analog signals with rabbit ears here. Using the same rabbit ears, I got a clear picture with the digital signal compared to the fuzzy, snowy analog picture.

Dee, N8UZE

68. Re: Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-15 14:49:15 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <oamdnaxDadHPiCDUnZ2dnUVZ_qTinZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2178

Dee Flint wrote:
> Anyone checked out the digital over-the-air broadcasts? My old analog,
> portable TV in my exercise room is not hooked to cable. So I got one of the
> converter boxes and tried it out. I was impressed with the improvement in
> the picture. We're kind of marginal for reception of analog signals with
> rabbit ears here. Using the same rabbit ears, I got a clear picture with
> the digital signal compared to the fuzzy, snowy analog picture.

This is exactly the same experience that I had. My in-laws are very pleased with the improvement in their picture and with the additional channels now available to them after installing the converter box. (Our public TV stations transmit multiple digital channels.)

On the other hand, my brother-in-law has had less than optimum performance after deciding to dump his cable TV service and use DTV. His problem is simple -- he needs an actual outdoor antenna. You can't get something from nothing. Assuming that spring will one day arrive, we'll easily take care of the problem.

69. Re: Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-15 15:06:59 UTC
From: poster@giganews.com
Message-ID: <kZSdnc6YA5pRjyDUnZ2dnUVZ_jaWnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2179

Dee Flint wrote:
> Anyone checked out the digital over-the-air broadcasts? My old analog,
> portable TV in my exercise room is not hooked to cable. So I got one of the
> converter boxes and tried it out. I was impressed with the improvement in
> the picture. We're kind of marginal for reception of analog signals with
> rabbit ears here. Using the same rabbit ears, I got a clear picture with
> the digital signal compared to the fuzzy, snowy analog picture.

Glad to hear it!

When it does work, it works VERY well. And really, most of the time it *does* work. I know up here, 30 miles from the towers, my digital reception is crystal-clear. I definitely cannot say that for my analog reception, *especially* on the most popular channels 2/4/5/8.

And I get *more* channels. I got 11 analog channels. I get twice as many digitals. Indeed, 8-2 is probably the most popular channel in my house these days. (don't tell my boss - I work for 4-1/4-2...)

We have heard from a few viewers who are having problems.

I think a lot of them were living with VERY poor analog signals. Some seem to have felt these amplified indoor "digital" antennas were some kind of "magic" -- one viewer was trying to watch us with an indoor antenna in a town 50 miles from the tower. Amazingly, it worked about 40% of the time!

I would estimate the most common issues we're seeing are:

- One or two channels didn't scan in on the first try. Rescanning brings in the missing channel(s).

- Trying to use a UHF-only antenna. Right now our station is the only digital on VHF in town. It should be noted that will change here -- and in MANY other markets -- in June when the analogs go off.

(we also heard from one viewer with a VHF-only antenna. They were really happy with our digital signal but wanted to know why they couldn't get anyone else!)

- Believing an amplified indoor antenna is a suitable replacement for an unamplified outdoor antenna.

- Somehow, not understanding that the antenna must be connected to the *converter box*, not directly to the TV.

--
Doug Smith W9WI

Pleasant View, TN EM66

70. Re: Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-15 18:23:04 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gpjbh1$dm5$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2180

<poster@giganews.com> wrote in message
news:kZSdnc6YA5pRjyDUnZ2dnUVZ_jaWnZ2d@earthlink.com...

[snip]

> (we also heard from one viewer with a VHF-only antenna. They were really
> happy with our digital signal but wanted to know why they couldn't get
> anyone else!)
>
> - Believing an amplified indoor antenna is a suitable replacement for an
> unamplified outdoor antenna.

Since it's just my exercise room, I used an antenna I had on hand, which was
VHF only but am getting the UHF signals well too.

Dee, N8UZE

71. Re: Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-15 20:20:29 UTC
From: poster@giganews.com
Message-ID: <RJ6dnRsaA8ZpwCDUnZ2dnUVZ_t_inZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2181

Dee Flint wrote:
> Since it's just my exercise room, I used an antenna I had on hand, which was
> VHF only but am getting the UHF signals well too.

It's far more likely to work in that direction (receiving UHF on a
VHF-only antenna) than the other way around. (receiving VHF on a
UHF-only antenna) Especially if a preamp is involved!

--
Doug Smith W9WI
Pleasant View, TN EM66

72. Re: Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-15 23:52:49 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gpk4c2pum1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2182

<poster@giganews.com> wrote in message
news:RJ6dnRsaA8ZpwCDUnZ2dnUVZ_t_inZ2d@earthlink.com...
> Dee Flint wrote:
>> Since it's just my exercise room, I used an antenna I had on hand, which
>> was VHF only but am getting the UHF signals well too.
>
> It's far more likely to work in that direction (receiving UHF on a
> VHF-only antenna) than the other way around. (receiving VHF on a UHF-only
> antenna) Especially if a preamp is involved!
>
> --
> Doug Smith W9WI
> Pleasant View, TN EM66
>

No preamp on that old thing. I do think I'll eventually get a better one
with a pre-amp as it is very touchy on the orientation at the moment.

73. Re: Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-16 17:09:25 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <YIvvl.151430$fM1.86383@newsfe14.iad>
Source record: 2183

Dee Flint wrote:
> <poster@giganews.com> wrote in message
> news:RJ6dnRsaA8ZpwCDUnZ2dnUVZ_t_inZ2d@earthlink.com...
>> Dee Flint wrote:
>>> Since it's just my exercise room, I used an antenna I had on hand, which
>>> was VHF only but am getting the UHF signals well too.
>> It's far more likely to work in that direction (receiving UHF on a
>> VHF-only antenna) than the other way around. (receiving VHF on a UHF-only
>> antenna) Especially if a preamp is involved!
>>
>> --
>> Doug Smith W9WI
>> Pleasant View, TN EM66
>>
>
> No preamp on that old thing. I do think I'll eventually get a better one
> with a pre-amp as it is very touchy on the orientation at the moment.

You'd probably be better off with a separate outboard preamp.

We've been watching digital/HDTV at our house since late 2003. My setup until this past autumn was a CRT-type 4:3 27" Samsung monitor with outboard Samsung tuner. We went to a 42" Vizio wide screen LCD HDTV last Fall and it is fantastic. We use the same medium-sized, gable mount VHF/UHF antenna we've had since 2003 and use a four-port Philips Preamp feeding other TV's in the house (including a sweet little HDTV computer PCI card with output fed to a Samsung 19" wide screen monitor in the ham shack.

The reason I use outboard preamps is so that I can put an Ameco highpass filter right ahead of the preamp.

Dave K8MN

74. Re: Digital TV broadcasts

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-16 17:20:49 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gpm1p3$t2k$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2184

"Dave Heil" <k8mn@frontiernet.net> wrote in message
news:YIvvl.151430$fM1.86383@newsfe14.iad...
> Dee Flint wrote:
>> <poster@giganews.com> wrote in message
>> news:RJ6dnRsaA8ZpwCDUnZ2dnUVZ_t_inZ2d@earthlink.com...
>>> Dee Flint wrote:
>>>> Since it's just my exercise room, I used an antenna I had on hand,
>>>> which was VHF only but am getting the UHF signals well too.
>>> It's far more likely to work in that direction (receiving UHF on a
>>> VHF-only antenna) than the other way around. (receiving VHF on a
>>> UHF-only antenna) Especially if a preamp is involved!
>>>
>>> --
>>> Doug Smith W9WI
>>> Pleasant View, TN EM66
>>>
>>
>> No preamp on that old thing. I do think I'll eventually get a better one
>> with a pre-amp as it is very touchy on the orientation at the moment.
>
> You'd probably be better off with a separate outboard preamp.
>
>
> We've been watching digital/HDTV at our house since late 2003. My setup
> until this past autumn was a CRT-type 4:3 27" Samsung monitor with
> outboard Samsung tuner. We went to a 42" Vizio wide screen LCD HDTV last
> Fall and it is fantastic. We use the same medium-sized, gable mount
> VHF/UHF antenna we've had since 2003 and use a four-port Philips Preamp
> feeding other TV's in the house (including a sweet little HDTV computer
> PCI card with output fed to a Samsung 19" wide screen monitor in the ham
> shack.
>
> The reason I use outboard preamps is so that I can put an Ameco highpass
> filter right ahead of the preamp.
>
> Dave K8MN
>

Since it's just my exercise room, it isn't worth investing too much in the
setup though. I already receive all the channels available in this area if
I pay attention to the antenna orientation.

Dee, N8UZE

75. Another casualty of the times

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-16 23:27:16 UTC
From: K0HB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <91663859790941B4B817B935A84FE329@Laptop>
Source record: 2185

I received the following via email. This small-town business has been around since the 1930's. It's sad to see it diminished.

73, de Hans, K0HB

Burghardt Amateur Center Inc will now be called Burghardt Radio Repair Inc and will no longer sell amateur radio transceivers and accessories. All backorders have been cancelled.

The current economic conditions have caused us to re-evaluate our goals and direction. We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Thank you for your support in the past and look forward to continuing our relationships through our servicing facility.

TNX & 73

Jim Smith (Wï¿½MJY)
Burghardt Radio Repair Inc
PO Box 73 - 710 10th St SW
Watertown, SD 57201
Service 1 (605) 886-7314
FAX 1 (605) 886-3444
http://www.burghardt-amateur.com

76. Re: Another casualty of the times

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-18 20:29:46 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <KQcwl.67855$FI5.54861@newsfe07.iad>
Source record: 2186

K0HB wrote:
> I received the following via email. This small-town business has been
> around since the 1930's. It's sad to see it diminished.
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
> ----------
>
>
> Burghardt Amateur Center Inc will now be called Burghardt Radio Repair
> Inc and will no longer sell amateur radio transceivers and accessories.
> All backorders have been cancelled.
>
> The current economic conditions...

I'm sorry to see Burghardt's get out of the business of salling amateur
gear. My knowledge of place began around the time I received my Novice
license in '63. One of the first envelopes full of adverts for ham gear
which arrived was from Stan Burghardt.

Dave K8MN

77. Icom 91AD

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-18 21:55:35 UTC
From: MarcusV <nospam@nospam.net>
Message-ID: <mIdwl.995$SU3.402@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2187

Worth the extra $$$ @ $369.99?

D-Star technology worth having or would I be better off with a simularly priced handheld w/o the D-Star but other features instead?

tia

78. Re: Icom 91AD

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-18 22:26:12 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <8ecc57c1-12a6-4499-b373-128d7d076a30@j8g2000yql.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2188

That question depens largely on what you want to do and if there are
any D-Star repeaters in your area.

First, if there are no D-Star repeaters near you, why spend the money?

Second, if there are D-Star repeaters.. Then is it worth the extra $$
being able to talk on these machines?

I personally don't really think that D-Star is worth it even in the
Dallas area where we have multiple D-Star repeaters. However, I know
folks who love it and swear it is the wave of the future. I suppose if
you are into data services, it might be worth it.

-= Bob =-

On Mar 18, 4:55 pm, "MarcusV" <nos...@nospam.net> wrote:
> Worth the extra $$$ @ $369.99?
>
> D-Star technology worth having or would I be better off with a simularly
> priced handheld w/o the D-Star but other features instead?
>
> tia

79. Re: Icom 91AD

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-19 13:58:35 UTC
From: Ecliptica <ecliptica@unia.invalid>
Message-ID: <gpsl06ujj1@kanon.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2189

On Wed, 18 Mar 2009 17:55:35 -0400, MarcusV wrote:

> Worth the extra $$$ @ $369.99?
>
> D-Star technology worth having or would I be better off with a simularl
y
> priced handheld w/o the D-Star but other features instead?
>
> tia

Depends:

1. Do you know anyone in your area that uses D-Star or runs a D-Star repeater or gateway? If not, then D-Star would be pointless. If so, you should decide whether or not you need or want to participate. It would be

pointless to get D-Star if you don't plan top use it.

2. What are these "other features"? Do you want/need any of them? If not,

then just go ahead with D-Star.

Really, you have to weigh out what you want out of your radio. I myself probably would the D-Star, since I have been wanting to try it out, and I

probably wouldn't need any of those extra features. However, I am not the

one buying the radio here. Inform youself on D-Star, and decide for yourself whether or not to get it.

80. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1649 - March 20 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-20 08:29:33 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090320012550.01836c10@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2190
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1649 - March 20 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1649 with a release date of Friday, March 20th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Civil unrest causes a DXpedition to be cancelled in Bangladesh, a radio club looses it fight to remain in a New York City museum, a new study shows that walking and talking on a cellphone can be hazardous to your health, experts say that 5 Mhz should be a band to watch and the story of ham radio and the American Boy. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1649 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: DXPEDITION TO BANGLADESH ON HOLD DUE VTO CIVIL UNREST

A civil war has put a halt to a long anticipated DXpedition. Bill Paternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

--

Political unrest has lead to the cancellation of a long awaited DX operation to Bangladesh. This with word that members of the Korea DX Club had to postpone their operation from Dhaka due to a civil war that has broken out in the city.

The report from the team mentions that the situation was chaotic and that their S21KD was cancelled when they first arrived. They did eventually get a new license and S21CZY call sign. They also moved to another location 2 1/2 hours away.

The team hoped to be on the air that day but could not retrieve the radio gear from the airport. As safety was the team's first priority they cancelled the operation and headed back home.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF

--

The group hope to get another chance to operate from Bangladesh once the civil unrest subsides and they can schedule a new date. For updates please visit http://dxpedition.co.kr on the Word Wide Web. (Southgate)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: 6 METER EME DXPEDITION TO THE COOK ISLANDS

A 6 meter EME DXpedition to the South Cook Islands is now slated for moonrise on Thursday March 26, with the last 6 meter activity probably be the moonrise window on Saturday April 4 GMT. This with word that Lance Collister, W7GJ, and Bob Sutton ZL1RS are meeting in Rarotonga at the end of March to activate E51 on EME on both the 6 and 2 meter bands.

Unless otherwise indicated after we get there, the 6 meter operation will take place on 50.190 Mhz. Collister will be at the controls of the 6 meter station using the call sign E51SIX from grid square BG08dr

Collister says that 6 meter QSL requests go to E51SIX slash W7GJ, Lance Collister, P.O. Box 73, Frenchtown, Montana, 59834-9973 in the USA Please include a self addressed envelope with sufficent return postage.

By the way, if the name Lance Collister and his Frenchtown, Montana, home address sound familiar its because he was the first ham on good old mother Earth to contact space adventurer Owen Garriott, W5LFL, during the STS-9 space shuttle mission. That took place way back in November of 1983 when Collister held the call sign WA1JXN.

We will have more DX related news later on in this weeks report (OPDX)

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: HALL OF SCIENCE ARC LIKELY TO BE EVICTED FROM ITS NAMESAKE

New York City's historic Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club appears to have lost its fight to retain a station at its namesake home of 35 years. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the latest on the clubs hunt for a new home:

--

Despite a cordial meeting and demonstration of amateur radio with the museum's boss, Thomas Tumino, N2YTF, says it appears very unlikely WB2JSM will ever be activated again from the Hall of Science.

"I would say that there is a 90 percent chance that it is all over at the Hall of Science," Tumino says.

You might recall a few months ago, we told you how the museum, located in Flushing Meadows on the site where the World's Fair was held in the mid-1960s, had asked the club to take down its antennas during a renovation project.

It then banned them from putting them back up and began talking about ousting the organization.

That sparked an on-line petition drive which netted some 13-hundred signatures.

But Tumino, president of the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club, concedes that hasn't changed the museum's mind.

An item in the New York Daily News recently quoted a museum official as saying there isn't room for the amateur radio station.

Tumino says there were discussions with the museum about putting the ham radio exhibit on a cart on wheels with remote control of the radios. That's the 10 percent chance of return Tumino is talking about.

But, he concedes that's slim, and the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club in New York, is now looking elsewhere for a home.

"A well-known New York City area ham, has kind of taken up our cause to some extent and is helping us with that," Tumino says. "So, we don't know yet whether that's a set solution, moving to another museum within the New York City limits.

"But that also looks very promising and we've already had one meeting with that institution and hope to schedule a second."

While Tumino declined to identify that museum for fear of jeopardizing negotiations, he did say it may be in one of New York's boroughs - but not in Queens.

He did say it's an ideal operating location for amateur radio, especially emergency communications.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

If you would like to sign the petition to help keep the Hall of Science Amateur Radio Club at New York City's Hall of Science, please take your web browser to http://tinyurl.com/6ljost (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO SAFETY: CELLPHONES VS. PEDESTRIAN FALALITIES

First it was driving with a cellphone that was tagged as a dangerous act. Now its just walking along while chatting that is coming under attack in a new study released on March 8th. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is in Reno with more:

--

A new study by Rutgers University Economics Professor Peter D. Loeb and his associates says that cellular phones as related to accidents are a danger on the road in more ways than one. Hi study along with another show that talking on the phone while traveling, whether you're driving or on foot, is
increasing both pedestrian deaths and those of drivers and passengers.

One of the new studies, lead-authored by Dr Loeb, relates the impact of cell phones on accident fatalities to the actual number of cell phones in use. It purports to show that the current increase in deaths attributed to cell phone use follows a period when cell phones actually helped to reduce pedestrian and traffic fatalities. However, the study also found this

reduction in fatalities disappeared once the numbers of phones in use reached a critical mass usership of 100 million.

Loeb and his co-author determined that, at the current time, cell phone use has a significant adverse effect on pedestrian safety and that cell phones and their usage above a critical threshold adds to motor vehicle fatalities. Loeb says that in the late 1980s and part of the 1990s, before the numbers of phones in use exploded, cell phone use actually had a life-saving effect in pedestrian and traffic accidents. Loeb notes that cellphone users were able to quickly call for medical assistance when involved in an accident and hypothesizes that this quick medical response actually reduced the number of traffic deaths for a time. But says the report, this life-saving effect was canceled out once the numbers of phones reached a critical mass" of about 100 million and the life-taking effect where increased accidents and fatalities began to outweigh the benefits of quick access to 911 services. Another study titled "The Cell Phone Effect on Pedestrian Fatalities" from Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts
also looked at pedestrian fatalities related to cell phone use.

And why should these studies be of interest to ham radio operators? Call it possible guilt by association.

Its well known that both the public and law makers tend to lump anything that looks like a cellphone as being one. Also, as seen with the current spate of state laws dealing with mobile cellphone use, regulators tend to make sweeping all-inclusive regulations that affect everything in sight rather than targeting a problem. With both reports recommending that that governments consider more aggressive policies to reduce cell phone use by both drivers and pedestrians, its reasonable to assume that anyone carrying anything that even resembles a cellphone might one day be affected. And a lot of today's tiny H-T's can easily be mistaken for a cellphone as has been the case.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

Also remember that its been almost a half century since Class D CB was created and even today most people and political leaders really do not know the difference between it and amateur radio. More on these twin reports are at www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090304160404.htm (Rutgers University, Science Daily)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KD1RJ repeater serving Fairfield, Connecticut.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NWS CHANGES HAIL REPORTING CRITERIA

Winds of change are sweeping across Indiana, in an effort to streamline the Severe Thunderstorm Warning Criteria. Beginning April 1, 2009,reporting stations and Skywarn spotters will begin reporting hail that is one inch or larger. Previous reports looked for hail that was pea size or larger.

McCarthy audio: " Usually damage begins at one and a quarter size hail rather than warning for hail that is penny size or smaller."

Dan McCarthy, Meteorologist in Charge of the Indianapolis National Weather Office, says parameters for reporting wind speed have also been refined. He says winds reaching 58 miles per hour are now considered a threat. At 60 miles per hour tree branches break and trees begin to uproot.

McCarthy: " The whole idea is to provide a more precise service for the public."

This change in criteria comes following a four year study of hail damage and the issuance of Severe Thunderstorm Warnings in Kansas and the central plains. The study found one inch hail rather than the historical three-quarter inch threshold as a better indicator for Thunderstorm Warnings. Illinois, Iowa and Missouri will join Kansas and Indiana April 1st to change the hail stone criteria.

N-W-S officials felt the public was becoming desensitized by numerous warnings being issued for marginal hail sizes. McCarty say this new criteria should cut down on the number of warnings and cut down on the number of programming interruptions that local broadcast stations are forced to make for Severe
Thunderstorm Warnings.

McCarthy audio: "We'll be able to warn people of more damaging hail than the smaller hail."

The bottom line is fewer Severe Thunderstorm Warnings. And when Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued, the storms will have the potential to cause damage.

From Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker, W8ISH. (W8ISH, ARNewsline(tm))

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO TAKES PART IN NC NWS TORNADO DRILL

Ham radio has participated in a major emergency training drill in North Carolina. Amateur Radio Newsline's Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, has the details:

--

At 9:30AM local time on Wednesday, March 4th, the National Weather Service issued a simulated tornado warning for several counties in North Carolina. Almost immediately, members of the Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service, Foothills Weather Net, and Rutherford County ARES were

activated. The groups worked closely with the National Weather Service forecast office to coordinate with amateur radio severe weather spotters. As a result, the National Weather Service was able to solicit weather reports and other information related to the drill from amateur radio operators from Asheville to Charlotte.

During the drill Herb Switzer, N4BXB, of Shelby noted several weaknesses in the communications system installed at the National Weather Service office. The Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service says that it will be working with other local amateur radio operators to resolve these problems before the severe weather season begins.

Bryan McAvoy is the Forecaster at the National Weather Service Office in Greer North Carolina. He says that he hopes to schedule more drills like this one involving the regions ham radio community in the not to distant future.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Randy Ross, KI4ZJI, in Shelby, North Carolina.

--

The National Weather Service has come to rely on the ham radio as their primary means of communication between their office and those storm spotters during severe weather outbreaks. (KI4ZJI, ARNewsline(tm))

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAMS NEEDED FOR MAY 3rd BREAD WALK FOR HUNGER IN BOSTON

Organizers of the ham radio support group for help for this year's Project Bread Walk for Hunger in Boston Massachusetts are looking for some volunteers. The date of the event is May 3rd and this will be the 41st running of the event.

According to a web posting by Eric Horwitz, KA1NCF, the Amateur Radio Communications Coordinator for the event hams are needed to provide communications support along the 20 mile walk. If you are interested in helping out this year, go to http://wfh.mmra.org and fill out the signup form. Questions and comments go by e-mail to w4h <at> nsradio <dot>org (Via e-mail)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO PRISON CELLPHONE JAMMING DEMO

The FCC has told a company that manufactures cellular telephone jamming equipment that it cannot demonstrate it here in the United States. In a March 17th letter to CellAntenna Corporation of Coral Springs, Florida, the FCC says that it us denying the company's request to conduct a demonstration of equipment designed to block unauthorized wireless telephone calls by prisoners at the Pine Prairie Correctional Center in Pine Prairie, Louisiana.

CellAntenna had wanted to demonstrate that its gear could be used by prison officials to block calls being made by prisoners with illicitly obtained cellular phones. It has placed a request before the regulatory agency for a demonstration to take place on Friday, March 20th. CellAntenna's request indicated that the demonstration would use directional jamming that can be operated so that its impact is limited to a jail or prison, without interfering with other cellular phones or lines of communication beyond the walls of the
correctional facility, or otherwise outside the established test area.

But a number of entities challenged the test. Among them was the politically powerful Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association which argued that the proposed demonstration is prohibited by
Section 333 of the Communications Act. Others opposing the test stated that CellAntenna could not conclusive show that its gear would not cause interruption to cellular service outside the prison walls and could lead to inadvertent jamming of calls for emergency assistance.

In the end the FCC denied the request based on the fact that its rules state that it I against the law to manufacture, import or sell any form of device here in the United States that deliberately interferes will radio communications. It also notes that CellAntenna, is not a federal entity subject to any statutory exemption to this rule. As such, the CellAntenna request to hold the demonstration has been denied. (FCC)

**

RADIO SPECIALTIES: WEBCAM WATCHES CONSTRUCTION OF 1049 FT MIAMI TOWER

Meantime, a webcam in Florida is bringing the construction of WPLG-TV's new 1049 foot high candelabra tower in Miami, right to your computer screen.

Billed as one of the tallest such towers in the South-Eastern United States, each individual section is thirty feet long with the heaviest section weighing in at about 26,500 lbs. Its total weight of 1,013,450 pounds and it features a 12 foot wide face with a two person elevator to take repair crews to the top.

Once completed it will permit 50 foot center to center separation between antennas. Besides WPLG-TV, stations WSVN-TV and WLYF-FM will be moving to the new tower.

Fabrication of the new tower began on March 12th. The webcam lets anyone watch the work progress at http://tinyurl.com/d9vw8l (CGC, Gary Blau)

**

WITH THE LEAGUE: ARRL SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR FOUR AWARDS

The ARRL is seeking nominations for its Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award, Microwave Development Award, Technical Service Award and Technical Innovation Award. Each of these honors covers a different aspect of ham radio. Full details on each along with nominating rules for each are at the ARRL's website. Its in cyberspace at www.arrl.org. (ARRL)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: NEAR-FEST IN NH IN MAY

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that the 2009 New England Amateur Radio Festival or Near Fest is lated for May 1st and 2nd at the Deerfield New Hampshire Fairgrounds. In addition to the hundreds of hams tailgating in the flea market there will be three huge buildings filled with commercial vendors and dealers. The gates open at 9:00 AM for both buyers and sellers with talk in on the K1JEK 146.700 MHz repeater., Talk in is also on 146.52 MHz simplex and 3.885 MHz on SSB. And during the hamfest you can also tune your car radio to FM 95.1 or AM 650 for continuous news and entertainment More information is on-line at www.near-fest.com. (Via QRZ.com)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: HEART OF GEORGIA HAMFEST MAY 9TH

And Byron Georgia will play host to the 2009 Heart of Georgia Hamfest on May 9th. This event is sponsored by the combined efforts of the Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club, the Middle Georgia Radio Association, the Byron Middle School Amateur Radio Club and the Macon Amateur Radio Club. The venue is the Byron Middle School and there will be free tailgating with paid admission and on-site license testing will be available. For more information please take your web browser to www.heartofgeorgiahamfest.com and to download the hamfest flyer. (QRZ.com)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: QCWA MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT HAMVENTION 2009

And in a change from past tradition, this years Quarter Century Wireless Association Annual Membership Meeting will be held as a forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. QCWA members and those interested in becoming members are invited to the session that takes place on Sunday May 17th at 9:15 a.m. Eastern Daylight time.

On hand to answer your questions will be QCWA President Bob Roske, N0UF, along with many of the organizations directors. In years past these meetings were held only at QCWA conventions and meetings. Bringing the meeting to Hamvention means that more amateurs can find out first hand what the Quarter Century wireless Association is and what it offers to the ham radio community. (QCWA, ARNewsline(tm))

**

WITH NEWSLINE: ARNEWSLINE NOW ON FACEBOOK

Amateur Radio Newsline is now on Facebook. After looking at all the social networking sites we decided that the format of Facebook is the best way for direct interaction with you, our listeners.

Already several of your favorite Newsline reporters and anchors are there . Others will be joining over the next several weeks.

If you are already on Facebook we invite you to join and "friend" the Amateur Radio Newsline page. You will find it by searching the Organizations, Clubs and Societies area of Facebook or simply taking your web browser to the U-R-L you will find at:

www.facebook.com/group.php?gidW437231871#/group.php?gidV461269209&ref=nf

We look forward to meeting many of you there. (ARNewsline)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

ON THE AIR: 5 MHZ IMPROVEMENTS

As the end of March approaches, there are several items of interest to High Frequency operators around the world, most of which concern the 5 MHz band. Here's Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, in Nottingham, England, with the details:

--

UK operators holding a 5MHz NoV may like to note that after dark propagation on the East-West path to the USA peaks when America also falls into darkness. To check the condition of the path, European hams should listen
out for AM broadcasting stations WWCR in Nashville on 5,070kHz and WWRB on 5,050kHz which is also in Tennessee. Both employ 100kW.

American operators can check the path in the opposite direction by listening for the USB AIRMET stations RAF VOLMET on 5,450kHz and Shannon VOLMET on 5,505kHz.

UK operators should find US amateurs congregating on 5,403.5kHz around 01.00 to 02.00 GMT.

The path to the Far East can be checked by listening out, after sunset, for the Chinese Standard Frequency station BPM. It identifies at regular intervals in Morse code on 5,000kHz. The chance of a contact on 5MHz in this direction is remote, but one or two American radio amateurs are believed to have authorization to operate from military bases in the Pacific.

I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

--

Another important event at the end of March is that the portion of the 40 meter now infested with shortwave broadcasters is supposed to revert exclusively to amateur radio. Whether or not all of the stations now there will disappear remains to be seen. (GB2RS)

**

RADIO AND SPACE: AIR FOCE PERMITS AMSAT TO CONTINUE KEPS

AMSAT North America has received approval from the Air Force Space Command to continue re-distribution of Keplerian elements data sourced from the Space Track website.. This means that the AMSAT version of these Keplerian Elements in verbose format and the 2-line format can be freely distributed by those who receive them from AMSAT. The agreement covers the period of April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010 (WA5QGD, ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT-UK SPACE COLLOQUIUM IN JULY WANTS SPEAKERS

The 2009 AMSAT-UK Colloquium is now slated for Friday July 24th to Sunday 26th July at the University of Manchester. This 3 day event attracts an international audience of those involved in building and operating Amateur Radio satellites and CubeSats.

Now, AMSAT-UK is inviting speakers on topics regarding amateur radio space and associated activities for this event. They are also invited to submit papers for the "Proceedings" document which will be published at the same time but note that printed papers are not mandatory.

Either way, submissions should go to G4DPZ via e-mail to david dot johnson at blackpepper dot co dot uk. More about the 2009 Colloquium and previous events can be found at http://www.uk.amsat.org/colloquium (AMSAT-UK, ANS)

**

RADIOSPORTS: TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE FOR VISALIA IDXC CONTEST DINNER

If you are planning to attend the 2009 International DX Convention in Visalia, California, you can now purchase your tickets to the Contest Dinner on Friday night, April 17th. The venue is the Oak room at the Holiday Inn, Visalia. Tickets are $38 each or $360 for a table with 10 seats paid in advance.

This year guest speaker will be Tim Duffy, K3LR, who will speak on "The Never-Ending Challenge of Improving Your ContestStation." Also, the 2008 C-Q-P Awards will be presented. For complete details on the dinner banquet, please visit www.elbloggotorcido.com/contest-dinner-2009.html (OPDX)

**

DX

In DX, some welcome news. Bill Moore, NC1L, ARRL Awards Branch Manager, reports that the just completed K5D Desecheo Island 2009 has been approved

for DXCC Credit.

VK9GMW will be active from Mellish Reef in a low-key DXpedition between March 22nd and April 6th. The operation will have a strong low-band focus. QSL via HA7RY direct, by the Bureau or using Logbook to the World. Also, please note that the dates of this operation are approximate and subject to change with little notice.

F5TGR will be active as stroke FG from Guadeloupe between 14th and 28th March. Look for him from 40m up to 10m using CW and SSB. QSL via F5TGR.

LT9L will operate from the shores of Lake Luna in Argentina. Activity will be on the 80, 40, 20 and 15 meter bands using CW, SSB, PSK, RTTY and SSTV. QSL via EA5FL to the address at qrz.com.

An international DXpedition will activate Lord Howe Island between March 23rd and the 3rd of April. It will use the callsign VK9LA. QSL this one to VK9LA in care of the Oceania Amateur Radio DX Group in Australia.

2E1EUB will be active on all satellites from North-East Scotland for the week starting March 21, 2009. Check out qrz.com under 2M1EUB listing for more information.

I2AE says that he plan to be active from several Danish islands between May 1st and the 15th No callsign has yet been mentioned but it is suggested that you monitor mainly 7.050 to 7.060 and 14.250 to14.260 MHz during that time frame.

Lastly, a chance for some 6 meter contacts across the Atlantic pond. This with word that the RSGB 50MHz Activity Contest runs from 20.00 to 22.30 UTC on March 24th. This contests permits participants to use all modes. If you make a contact, QSL the stations as they direct you on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE AMERICAN BOY

And finally this week, a quick look back at the history of amateur radio and some of the politics that kept it alive after the first world war. It's a story that might best be called The American Boy and here's Jim Linton. VK3PC:

--

The 3rd National Radio Conference was held in Washington DC in October 1924.

In the chair was Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover who in his opening address said, "Nor have we overlooked in these previous conferences the voice or interest of the amateur, embracing as he does that most beloved party in the United States - the American boy.

"He is represented at this conference, and we must have a peculiar affection for his rights and interests.

"I know nothing that has contributed more to sane joy and definite instruction than has radio.

"Through it the American boy to-day knows more about electricity and its usefulness than all of the grown-ups of the last generation.

"I have during the past year somewhat extended this wave band. I hope that this conference may dismiss the objections that have been raised to this action."

A member of the conference coordinating committee was the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim, the "Father of Organised Amateur Radio" in the United States.

At the end of the conference amateurs substantially retained their frequency bands - spectrum we know today as 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m and 6m.

The conference recognized that rapid changes were being imposed by scientific discovery and invention.

It looked at the emerging trends in broadcasting that was making radio available to every home in the country.

Interference was a hot topic with references to electrical devices and methods to reduce their impact on radio reception.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

--

The internet address of the conference report can be found in the text edition of this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline bulletin. It makes for some rather interesting reading.

(DO NOT READ: http://earlyradiohistory.us/1924conf.htm) (VK3PC)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also be sure to mark April 18th as this year World Amateur Radio Day. World Amateur Radio Day will focus on the hobby as it empowers people and supports communities by providing emergency communication as well as public service oriented interaction for community and other special events.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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81. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 11 (Friday, March 20, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-20 18:31:41 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090320183018.0E32E313EB@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2191
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 11
March 20, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Hams Assist Woman Injured in Desert
* + ARRL Youth Editor: Young People Can Help with Emergency
Communications, Too!
* + ARRL Releases Revision of "Experimental Methods in RF Design"
* + FCC Denies Petition to Increase Size of Amateur Radio Question Pools

* + Global Simulated Emergency Test Scheduled for April
* + African Radio Organization Applies for IARU Membership
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ W1AW QSYs on 160 Meters
+ Addressing Change Coming to ARRL Magazines
Rich Beebe, N0PV (SK)
Burghardt to No Longer Sell Amateur Radio Equipment
Eighth Annual VoIP Conference Scheduled for April 18

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> HAMS ASSIST WOMAN INJURED IN DESERT

It was a sunny day, not a cloud in the sky, when Hal Whiting, KI2U, Todd
Kluxdal, Kluxdal's father and Whiting's two sons decided to go out to
the Poverty Mountain area in Arizona to search for airplane crash sites.
Whiting, who lives in St George, Utah, and Kluxdal, who lives in
Mesquite, Nevada, took two vehicles that day. According to Whiting, they
always take two vehicles, just in case a problem pops up: "We always
have two spare tires, extra gasoline and a tow rope. We take enough food
```

and supplies to stay two or three days." In addition to the extra equipment, Whiting took the one thing he never goes without -- his ham radio.

"It was a bit after lunch, about 73 miles into our trip," Whiting told the ARRL," when we were flagged down by a man wanting to know if we had a satellite phone, since he couldn't get coverage on his cell phone." Whiting didn't have a satellite phone, but he asked the man if this was an emergency. Whiting said that the man told him that one of his friends had been injured when her ATV rolled on top of her. "I told him I could call for help on my ham radio," he said. The injured woman was knocked unconscious by the fall, but had regained consciousness and was speaking coherently, but was in pain.

"I picked up my mic and put out a call on the 146.910 repeater, one of four repeaters run by Dean Cox, NR7K," Whiting said. "I called for assistance a couple of times when Mac Magee, N6LRG, in the Arizona Cane Beds, answered."

"Mac lives about 50 miles away from the accident site," Whiting said. "It's funny -- it's usually Washington County hams who are on the repeaters, since that's the direction they're pointed in. But Mac lives in Mohave County. And the accident happened in Mohave County. We were lucky, since if the call was answered by a ham in Washington County, there would have been a delay in them getting the info to the proper authorities in Mohave County, but with Mac answering, all our information went right to the proper place."

That morning, Magee told the ARRL that he came into my shack "and for some reason, turned on the 2 meter rig and it happened to be on the 146.910 repeater. I usually have a problem with the repeater 'hearing' me, so I rarely use it. About 11:20 Arizona time, I heard someone call and say they had emergency traffic and needed help. I fully expected a bevy of hams to answer the call, since so many are in range of that machine, but after his second call, and no answer, I took it."

Magee said that the calling station had been flagged down by another motorist. "He told me there had been an accident in the vicinity of Poverty Mountain," he said. "I really had no idea where that was, but I began to write down details. As soon as I had basic info, I called 911. The Mohave County Sheriff Office answered; I explained who I was and what the call was about."

The dispatcher asked Magee for the coordinates to the site, and Magee relayed the request to Whiting. "I looked at my GPS and gave Mac my coordinates, but he said the dispatcher wanted the coordinates from the accident site," Whiting said. "So I got in my 4-wheel drive and drove down the ridge to the site, about 5600 feet above sea level, and got the coordinates. I had to drive back to the ridge, another 1000 feet up, to call Mac back, because I couldn't get a signal down there."

Whiting told the ARRL that in addition to his ham radio, he also carries a set of FRS radios. "I gave one of the FRS radios to Todd and he drove his Jeep down the ridge to the accident site," he said. "I kept the other one and Todd was able to relay me information about the injured woman's condition and I was able to relay that information to Mac who in turn relayed it to the 911 dispatcher. Mac put the mic right up to the phone so the dispatcher could hear exactly what was going on."

Magee said the 911 dispatcher requested more information: "While Hal was replying, I held the phone up to my radio speaker. When he finished with the details, I asked them if they copied that. The dispatcher said he did, and they held me on the line. Hal and I talked a while as he gave more data. When the dispatcher returned, they said a chopper was being dispatched from Phoenix! Well, we finished that call after they had the actual accident site GPS coordinates that Hal had passed on."

With emergency help on the way, Kluxdal returned to the ridge and he and Whiting and his group went on their way to go check out an airplane crash site, the original intent of their trip. "The family members told us to go on and get on with our trip, so we did, after making sure they were all okay," Whiting said. "So we left to go to the crash site, about 3-4 miles away. As we were getting ready to return, we saw the helicopter overhead, taking the injured woman to the hospital in Las Vegas. We returned to the top of the ridge and a sheriff's deputy was there and he told us that our GPS coordinates were off, but only by 20 feet! He said that the helicopter crew was real happy that they were so on-target."

Whiting said they were glad to have been able to help. "This is a remote area," he said. "There's only one way in, one way out with no shortcuts to get in and out. There are only dirt roads, and it can get very muddy when it rains a lot. I was out that way two weeks ago and got stuck in the mud there, but it was all dry this past weekend."

Whiting said he learned a few things after this trip: "I am glad I had my radio equipment with me, and I am glad there was someone listening on the repeater to take the emergency call. Having the spare FRS radios created an efficient means for relay with a non-ham person, and having the GPS equipment provided a very effective means for the helicopter rescue team to locate the accident, since they did not want the road designation information but the exact patient coordinates. It would have been useless to have my equipment if there had not been someone listening. This proves that there is a good reason to keep your radios with you and in good operating condition."

Whiting, who was first licensed in 1976, is the ARES Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Washington County. A CAD Manager and Aerial Photographer for Bulloch Brothers in Mesquite, Nevada (he and Kluxdal are co-workers), he is currently teaching an Amateur Radio licensing class to 13 prospective hams at the Dixie Regional Medical Center in St George.

Magee said that before this incident he had never been involved in an actual emergency. "I have established emergency communications networks, in particular for the LDS Church in Newbury Park, California, where I was the Stake Emergency Communications Coordinator." He told the ARRL: "Our communications group won the first worldwide test of the system back in the late 1980s. This is like ARRL Field Day, but involved mostly LDS members and facilities, then under the name of Mercury Amateur Radio Association (MARA) <http://www.mara.net/>. I feel very pleased in knowing that I had the opportunity to serve in this rescue incident and that every penny I spent on my system, radio and antenna was certainly worth it. In these days of extensive cell phone service and coverage, isn't it satisfying to know that ham radio can still be of use for public service?"

==> ARRL YOUTH EDITOR: YOUNG PEOPLE CAN HELP WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, TOO!
ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, of Prairie Village, Kansas, says many young hams want to help out with Emergency Communications and ARES activities, but really don't know where to start. "One disadvantage of being younger hams is the fact that legal guardians are a must for most situations," MacLachlan said. "While a young ham may not be able to go out and save the day with a handheld transceiver after a large storm, there are many ways they can aid in emergency operations."

MacLachlan said that the first step in helping to support Emergency Communications is to join the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or a local club that works with city or county to provide emergency communications services. "When you approach your EC -- the Emergency Coordinator, basically the president of that ARES group -- I recommend that you have discussed with your parents what you can and can't do in an emergency in terms of Amateur Radio response. If your parents are like mine, chances are they're not fond of the idea of having their kid running around a disaster zone in the name of emergency communications. I'd recommend asking your EC if there is a position you could fulfill from home, or even in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) where operations are carried out."

One example of a duty that a young ham could fulfill at the EOC would be Net duty. In an emergency response effort, MacLachlan said that hams establish a Net to relay emergency traffic or other information to the people responsible for responding to the event: "Chances are the Net will last longer than 10 hours, and since hams are human, the primary Net Control (NC) will need a break at least several times in that time period -- you could help as back-up. Another duty that could be performed is shadowing various emergency response personnel for the city. Believe it or not, not a lot of Emergency Managers have their Amateur Radio license. If they go out to drive around and survey damage, they need to have a link to the ham radio Net in case they hear anything they need to respond to."

MacLachlan recommends that young hams contact their EC and ask what roles there are that they could perform for the group in an emergency.

"If you know your parents' threshold of what you can and can't do, let the EC know upfront that you do have limits," he cautions. "Make sure you participate in as many emergency communication drills as you can and consult with your EC and other members."

According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, young hams also need to check with their local government officials, as well. "Due to legal considerations, not all emergency management officials can have young people in their domains, such as an EOC," Dura explained. "While you can still help out with your ARES group, you might not be allowed to help out in the EOC."

MacLachlan strongly encourages local Emergency Coordinators to think of ways of creating positions that younger hams could fulfill in an emergency. "We're the next generation," MacLachlan said, "and starting emergency response at a young age is the best training for when we're ready to take the helm."

==> ARRL RELEASES REVISION OF "EXPERIMENTAL METHODS IN RF DESIGN"

The revised first edition of "Experimental Methods in RF Design" is now available from the ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9239>. Co-written and updated by Wes Hayward, W7ZOI, Rick Campbell, KK7B, and Bob Larkin, W7PUA, "Experimental Methods in RF Design" explores wide dynamic range, low distortion radio equipment, the use of direct conversion and phasing methods and digital signal processing. Use the models and discussion included in the book to design, build and measure equipment at both the circuit and the system level.

Readers are immersed in the communications experience by building equipment that contributes to understanding basic concepts and circuits. The updated version of "Experimental Methods in RF Design" is loaded with new, unpublished projects. Presented to illustrate the design process, the equipment is often simple, lacking the frills found in current commercial gear. The authors understand that measurement is a vital part of experimentation. Readers are encouraged to perform measurements on the gear as they build it. Techniques to determine performance and the measurement equipment needed for the evaluations are discussed in detail and include circuits that the reader can build.

Contents of "Experimental Methods in RF Design" include:
* Basic Investigations in Electronics
* Amplifiers, Filters, Oscillators and Mixers
* Superheterodyne Transmitters and Receivers
* Measurement Equipment
* Direct Conversion Receivers
* Phasing Receivers and Transmitters
* DSP Components
* DSP Applications in Communications
* Field Operation, Portable Gear and Integrated Stations

A follow-up to the widely popular "Solid-State Design for the Radio Amateur" (published in 1977), "Experimental Methods in RF Design" includes a CD-ROM with design software, listings for DSP firmware and supplementary articles. It is available from the ARRL for $49.95.

==> FCC DENIES PETITION TO INCREASE SIZE OF AMATEUR RADIO QUESTION POOLS

In April 2008, Michael Mancuso, KI4NGN, of Raleigh, North Carolina, filed a petition with the FCC, seeking to increase the size of the question pools that make up the Amateur Radio licensing exams <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/prod/ecfs/retrieve.cgi?native_or_pdf=pdf&id_document=6520001890>. Mancuso sought to increase the question pool from 10 times the number of questions on an exam to 50 times more questions. On March 19, 2009, the Commission notified Mancuso that it was denying his petition <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-618A1.pdf>.

In his 2008 petition, Mancuso claimed that the current question pool is too easy to memorize and "that there has been a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators receiving their licenses over at least the last decade or more who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by the class of license that they have received. Most discussion about this topic, both on the air and on Internet forums, generally refers to these widespread observations as the 'dumbing down' of Amateur Radio. It has been widely assumed that the cause of this observed situation is based upon the subject material addressed by the license examinations, that the material requirements specified for the examinations does [sic] not meet some minimum level of knowledge expected by some or many in the Amateur Radio community."

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that each applicant for a new or upgraded Amateur Radio operator license "is required to pass a written examination in order to prove that he or she possesses the operational and technical qualifications required to perform properly the duties of an amateur service operator licensee, i.e., that he or she is qualified to be an amateur service licensee."

The Commission summed up Mancuso's petition, saying, "You argue that the current question pool size is no longer adequate, because online practice examinations enable examinees to memorize a question pool without fully comprehending the subject matter being tested. Consequently, you propose to increase the size of the question pools, in order to hinder memorization."

The Commission concluded that Mancuso did not present grounds for the Commission to amend its rules: "As noted above, the purpose of the examinations is not to demonstrate an applicant's comprehension of certain material, but rather to determine whether he or she can properly operate an amateur station. Moreover, your contention that there has been 'a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators...who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by their class of license' is not supported by any data or facts."

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that the Commission's Rules only dictate the minimum number of questions for each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes. This, the Commission told Mancuso, "does not prevent the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) from increasing the number of questions in a question pool should it decide that this is appropriate. We conclude, therefore, that the petition presents no evidence of an existing problem or other reason for a rule change."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that while he agreed with the Commission's decision, he disagrees with the rationale behind it. "The International Radio Regulations require that administrations verify the operational and technical qualifications of prospective amateur licensees, using Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 for guidance," he said. "The present examinations confirm to this requirement."

==> GLOBAL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

IARU Region 1 has invited the HQ stations of IARU Member-Societies, as well as the EOCs of Emergency Communications Groups (ECGs), to participate in the 2009 Global Simulated Emergency Test (GlobalSET), on Saturday, April 18, 2009 from 1100-1500 UTC <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/2009GlobalSET.pdf>. The GlobalSET will take place on and near the emergency Center of Activity (CoA) frequencies on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters, +/- QRM. IN the US, ARES groups that will be representing EOCs need to register through their IARU International Emergency Communications Coordinator. Registrations should be e-mailed to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD <k2dcd@arrl.org>, and must include the call sign (this will be used as the name of the ECG) and the EOC that the ECG is representing, as well as a list of the names and call signs of all operators involved.

The intent of the 2009 GlobalSET is for established IARU Headquarters stations and EOCs to test their capabilities. Dura said that W1AW will be the official ARRL and ARES representative for this event. Other ARES groups that participate from EOCs (as per their established response plan) are also invited to participate. "While we appreciate individual interest in participating, the purpose of the GlobalSET is to allow IARU Member-Societies and other EOCs they support to test their infrastructures and procedures at the highest levels," Dura said. "Other events, such as ARRL Field Day and the annual ARRL SET are available for individuals to test their preparedness."

According to IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB, the GlobalSET is not a contest, but an emergency communications exercise to develop skills needed to provide an international emergency network.

Mossop said that the GlobalSET has four objectives:
* To increase the common interest in emergency communications.
* To test how usable the CoA frequencies are across ITU regions.

* To create practices for international emergency communications.
* To practice the relaying of messages using all modes: Voice (SSB), Data or CW.

"The exercise will build on earlier GlobalSET exercises and will focus on generating and relaying messages in a common format across country borders, rather than the information gathering capabilities that we've done in the past," Mossop said. "We will pass messages in a format that we may have to use for the agencies we may serve. The message exchange will take longer than in previous exercises, and stations will have to be patient to transmit their messages across country and language boundaries."

Each participating station is to send messages to their Regional HQ station using the IARU International Emergency Operating Procedure <http://www.darc.de/referate/notfunk/info/emerg-ww.pdf>, using IARU message forms <http://www.iaru-r1.org/IARU-msg1.pdf>. Stations should relay the messages they receive to their Regional HQ station; the Region 2 station is TG0AA in Guatemala. To comply with license regulations in some countries, all messages should be addressed to Greg Mossop, G0DUB, and should come from a licensed radio amateur. Messages should contain fewer than 25 words and should not include anything that would be considered as a "real emergency" message by a listener. Mossop suggests constructing messages that include weather conditions, the number of operators at the station or even an interesting fact about the station. "There is no limit on the number of messages to be sent," he said, "but each one must have a unique message number." Regional HQ stations will not be sending messages, only receiving them.

Mossop recommends that in order to create "a more realistic situation, please limit your transmitting power during the exercise to 100 W. We are especially interested in stations operating mobile/portable and/or on emergency power."

Usually held in May, the 2009 GlobalSET was moved to April to tie into World Amateur Radio Day. The theme of the 2009 World Amateur Radio Day is "Amateur Radio: Your Resource in Disaster and Emergency Communication." "This is an ideal opportunity to showcase the work of emergency communications groups around the world," Mossop said.

For more information on the 2009 GlobalSET, including a list of CoA frequencies for Regions 1, 2 and 3, please see the GlobalSET announcement <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/2009GlobalSET.pdf>.

==> AFRICAN RADIO ORGANIZATION APPLIES FOR IARU MEMBERSHIP

In the IARU Calendar, No 188 dated March 11, 2009, IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, reported that the Union des Radioamateurs du Congo (URAC) in the Republic of the Congo has applied to become an IARU Member-Society (IARU Proposal No 245) <http://www.iaru.org/cal188.html>.

Sumner said that the Republic of the Congo (whose capital is Brazzaville) is not to be confused with the Democratic Republic of the

Congo (whose capital is Kinshasa); that country's amateurs are already represented in the IARU by the Association des Radio Amateurs du Congo (ARAC). The Republic of the Congo was formerly a part of French Equatorial Africa and became independent in 1960. Its ITU-allocated call sign prefix is TN.

URAC was formed in Brazzaville on October 8, 2008. Its officers are President Mao Monguimet, TN5MM; Secretary General Ulysse Yinda, and Treasurer Chynauldat Bangue. The URAC lists 15 members on its roster, including three licensed radio amateurs.

Sumner said that the URAC has stated to the IARU that it has the ability to meet its financial obligations as a member of the IARU through fees from members; that it is legally able to act in the furtherance of IARU objectives within the Republic of the Congo; that it will adequately represent the interests of radio amateurs throughout the country, and that it will adhere to the Constitutions of the IARU and of IARU Region 1. The IARU Region 1 Executive Committee has examined URAC's application and has found it to be in order.

In accordance with Bylaw 3 of the Bylaws of the International Amateur Radio Union <http://www.iaru.org/iarucnst.html>, it is proposed that Union des Radioamateurs du Congo be elected to IARU membership. A voting sheet for Proposal No 245 was sent to all IARU Member-Societies. Member-Societies need to submit their votes no later than August 11, 2009; votes received after this date cannot be counted.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "By banks where Sun beams earliest rest" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This reporting week -- March 12-18 -- there were no sunspots, but we saw a couple of promising magnetic anomalies which faded away before ever emerging as sunspots. Sunspot numbers for March 12-18 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.7, 68.2, 68.5, 68.4, 69.4, 68.8 and 68.4 with a mean of 68.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 16, 9, 7, 5, 3 and 1 with a mean of 6.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 10, 7, 5, 4, 3 and 0 with a mean of 5. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Clare's "May" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/may-2/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the Feld Hell Sprint and the 10-10 International Mobile Contest are on March 21. On March 21-22, be sure to tune in for the the Russian DX Contest, the Oklahoma QSO Party and the North Dakota QSO Party. The BARTG HF RTTY Contest and the Virginia QSO Party are March 21-23. The 9K 15 Meter Contest and the QRP Homebrewer

Sprint are March 23. The SKCC Sprint is March 25. Next week, look for the CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) and the EU EME Contest on March 28-29. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, March 22, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 3, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1, Radio Frequency Interference, Antenna Design and Construction, Ham Radio (Technician) License Course, Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* W1AW QSYs on 160 Meters: On Monday, March 9, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>, began using a new 160 meter frequency for its CW transmissions. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, there was "increasing activity" near the previous bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz. "In order to reduce the possibility of interference, W1AW has moved to 1802.5 kHz," Carcia said.

* Addressing Change Coming to ARRL Magazines: A change in the postal regulations for flat mail processing takes effect March 29 that will require the addressing area on the front of any flat, bulk-processed mail (such as magazines) be positioned to new specifications. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, QST, QEX and NCJ magazines will all have the delivery address imprinted upside down, but positioned in the same area on the front covers.

* Rich Beebe, N0PV (SK): South Dakota Section Manager Rich Beebe, N0PV, of Sioux Falls, passed away March 16. He was 46. Beebe had served as Section Manager since October 2002, running unopposed for each two-year term of office. According to the ARRL Field Organization Rules and Regulations, ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, in consultation with Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB,

will appoint a new Section Manager to fulfill Beebe's remaining term of office that ends March 31, 2010.

* Burghardt to No Longer Sell Amateur Radio Equipment: On March 16, Jim Smith, W0MJY, owner of Burghardt Amateur Center in Watertown, South Dakota <http://www.burghardt-amateur.com/>, announced that the company will no longer sell Amateur Radio transceivers and accessories. The company, now called Burghardt Radio Repair, has canceled all backorders. In an e-mail, Smith blamed the current economic conditions for the change that forced the company "to re-evaluate our goals and direction. We will continue to provide radio repair service as it has become a very busy business. Our technicians are very experienced and parts inventories are good. Thank you for your support in the past and we look forward to continuing our relationships through our servicing facility." Jim Smith's son, Mike Smith, KC0FTM, told the ARRL that even though the company has had to lay off employees in the past couple of months, "Burghardt will concentrate on service, just like we have been doing since 1973." Burghardt was founded in 1937 by Stan Burghardt, W0IT (SK), as Burghardt Radio Supply. He sold the company to Smith in 1982, remaining active in the company until January 2002. Burghardt passed away in 2004 at the age of 93.

* Eighth Annual VoIP Conference Scheduled for April 18: Each spring since 2002, the Nevada Amateur Radio Repeaters, Inc (NARRI) has sponsored the Annual VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) Conference in Las Vegas. Attendees have discussed such protocols as the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). IRLP System Designer David Cameron, VE7LTD, was the keynote speaker for the first six years of the conference. The 2009 conference is open to discuss all forms of VoIP communications. This year's meeting encompasses a broader scope, including all major VoIP systems in use by the Amateur Radio community such as IRLP, EchoLink, EchoIRLP, All Star, D-Star and DV Dongle; VoIP for emergency communications will also be on the agenda. According to Conference Chair Kent Johnson, W7AOR, there will be plenty of presentations and demonstrations at the conference. The conference is from 8:30-5 on Saturday, April 18 in Las Vegas in the conference area of the Circus Circus Hotel, under the North High Rise; enter from northeast side of the swimming pool. There will be plenty of presentations with demonstrations. For more information, please contact Johnson via e-mail <w7aor@narri.org> or visit the VoIP Conference Web site <http://www.narri.org/Annual_VoIP_Conference.html>.

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The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news

updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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82. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-22 06:00:05 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1237701601@panix.com>
Source record: 2192
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

83. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-22 06:05:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1237701901@panix.com>
Source record: 2193
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

84. BREAKING NEWS FROM ARNEWSLINE: FCC RULES THAT DIGITAL VOICE REPEATERS ARE REPEATERS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-23 20:44:35 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090323132809.01737e38@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2194
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

FCC RULES THAT DIGITAL VOICE REPEATERS ARE REPEATERS

The fcc has ruled that the claim by some owners of digital repeaters and some frequency coordinators that digital voice repeaters are not actually repeaters due to the time delay inherent in digital to analog and analog to digital conversions is erroneous.

In response to a request for a Declaratory Ruling on this issue from the Northern California Packet Association the FCC says that when a receiver and transmitter are tied together as a repeater it is a repeater. The full text of the FCC response to Gary R. Mitchell, President of the Northern California Packet Association is reprinted below.

ARNewsline will have more on this issue in our next newscast to be released on Friday, March 27th.

ARNewsline

**

Text of FCC Digital Voice Repeater Decision

Mr. Gary R. Mitchell
President, Northern California Packet Association
P.O. Box K
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Re: Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed December 5, 2007

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

This is in response to the petition for declaratory ruling that you filed on December 5, 2007, requesting that the Commission clarify the definition of a repeater in the amateur service rules. A repeater in the amateur service is defined as "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits
the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels." You seek clarification of whether the word "simultaneously " in
the definition refers to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information.

Section 97.205(b) of the Commission's Rules specifies the bands on which amateur repeater stations may operate. You state that some amateur radio

operators are operating on bands other than those set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not "simultaneously" retransmitted and, therefore,
the system is not a repeater.

Prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." The Commission revised the definition in order to clarify that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations. The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously"
with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small
propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word ï¿½simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and
transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, a repeater must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word "simultaneously" in the definition is used to modify "retransmit," we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that "simultaneously" as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the
receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to Section 4(i) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. ï¿½ 154(i), and Section 1.2
of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. ï¿½ 1.2, the Petition for Declaratory Ruling filed on December 5, 2007 by Gary R. Mitchell IS GRANTED to the extent indicated above.

This action is taken under delegated authority pursuant to Sections 0.131 and 0.331 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. ï¿½ï¿½ 0.131 and
0.331.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Scot Stone
Deputy Chief, Mobility Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

85. BREAKING NEWS FROM THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE FRANK BAUER, KA3HDO, STEPS DOWN FROM AMSAT AND ARISS POSITIONS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-24 18:30:07 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090324112320.01726530@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2195
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

BREAKING NEWS FROM THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm)
FRANK BAUER, KA3HDO, STEPS DOWN FROM AMSAT AND ARISS POSITIONS

By Mark Abramowicz NT3V
Amateur Radio Newsline - East Coast Bureau
Philadelphia PA.

Frank Bauer KA3HDO today (Tuesday, March 24, 2009) announced his resignation from all of his duties with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program, including work with NASA education office as ARISS program leader, support as the ARISS international chair, responsibilities as ARISS US delegate, and AMSAT VP of human space flight.

Bauer made the stunning announcement during an hour-long international conference call at about 7:20 a.m. EDT.

Bauer said a number of factors entered into his decision including family health issues and increasing responsibilities in his job at NASA related to the International Space Station and exploration.

He thanked several members of the ARISS international community and AMSAT for their dedication to the program.

He expressed appreciation for the support and friendship of the international ARISS team and urged them not to lose sight of the goal of inspiring the next generation of young students to get involved in space, ham radio and math and science technology.

Bauer said he simply had to step away completely, but has high hopes there will be a seamless transition.

He announced that AMSAT's Will Marchant, KC6ROL, will succeed him as the new AMSAT vice president for human space flight. Marchant also will become the new AMSAT USA delegate for the ARISS international working group.

(Much on the announcement, including Frank Bauer's own words explaining his decision to step down, on the next edition of Amateur Radio Newsline to be posted on Friday, March 28, 2009.)

ARNewsline (tm)

86. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1650 - March 27 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-27 13:58:59 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090327004914.03587400@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2196
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1650 - March 27 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1650 with a release date of Friday, March 27th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. The FCC rules that a repeater is a repeater even if there is a built-in audio delay. How will this effect the growth of digital audio repeaters nationwide?

Also, a follow-up on the story about those Indianapolis police officers found using ham radio gear in their cars. You may not believe the outcome.

And the recession hits ham radio as one of the nation's most respected retailers stops selling amateur radio gear and a special April 1st report from roving reporter Pierre Pullinmyleg. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1650, coming your way right now.

**

RADIO RULES: DIGITAL REPEATERS - FCC SAYS A DUCK IS A DUCK

The FCC has clarified its use of the word simultaneous in its rules governing repeater operation, and their decision is not going to make some, planning digital voice repeaters, very happy. That's because they will have to get in-line with those planning analog FM systems and wait for a channel pair. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

--

The FCC decision came in response to a 2007 request for a Declaratory Ruling filed by Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU. Gary is the president of Northern California Packet Association.

Gary's filing was the result of some frequency coordinators and the license holders of some digital voice repeaters claiming that these digital voice repeaters need not be constrained to repeater sub bands. This, because they were technically not repeaters. Those coordinators and licensees asserted that the delay inherent in converting the spoken word to a digital data stream and then back again to audible sound meant that these devices were not simultaneously receiving and retransmitting.

But the FCC says audio processing time is irrelevant. Rather, it concludes that the word "simultaneously," as used in the definition of a "repeater," refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time. In other words, the fact that it takes a second or two for audio to be digitized and un-digitized is incidental to a digital audio repeater's

operation.

Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, in Chicago, follows the digital voice repeater scene world wide. He tells Newsline that the small number of digital voice repeaters in Northern California that actually went the out-of-sub-band-route moved to legitimate repeater sub band channel pairs some time ago. Mark says that he knows of no other digital voice machines currently operating under the guise of being other than repeaters.

We cannot find any either, but if there are, they will need to be re-coordinated inside repeater sub bands or go off the air until such time as channels become available within repeater sub bands.

Because of the time it took the FCC to issue its Declaratory Ruling, it's right now a solution looking for a problem to solve. If nothing else, it does serve as a warning to coordinators and those who might be thinking of putting up a digital voice repeater. One that says to keep them confined within the recognized repeater sub bands and find ways to integrate their operation with the existing analog FM systems because repeater sub bands are the only place where repeaters belong.

One last item. From what we have seen posted on the Internet forums, one thing needs clarification. Neither Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, nor the Northern California Packet Association coordinate repeaters. The request was filed so as to assure all spectrum users that they will have a place to operate and that digital repeaters will not take over the VHF and UHF bands.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

This ruling on the part of the FCC may well go down in the history of ham radio as the "Duck Decision." That's because a number of those who filed in favor of it used the metaphor "if it looks like a duck, waddles like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck." And if a repeater repeats, it's a repeater. (ARNewsline(tm) from FCC release. Additional info from WB9QZB)

**

RADIO LAW: INDIANAPOLIS POLICE UNOFFICIAL RADIO FOLLOW-UP

A follow up to our recent news item on the Indianapolis Indiana police found by local hams to be operating unlicensed personal radio gear in their police vehicles. The story is taking an unexpected twist as we hear from Jack Parker, W8ISH:

--

More facts are beginning to emerge following a crackdown on Indianapolis Metro Police officers using ham radios for out of band conversations. Over a three-day period last month, police cruisers were searched and officers not holding a valid Amateur Radio license were forced to remove the illegal radios. This follows a complaint to the FCC that law enforcement officers

were using modified ham radios for a talk-around tactical (Tac) channel. Some conversations were heard in the VHF police bands, at the bottom of the 2-meter band and on frequencies assigned to the MURS radio service. Recordings of profanity being used brought action by the FCC.

Inside sources say many of the police officers obtained their 2-meter radios through Ebay. One of the most popular radios modified is the Yaesu FT 2800.

Some officers reportedly, paid as much as $350 dollars to a local radio shop for a used amateur radio that, new, sold for just over a hundred dollars. That is just one example how desperate some Indianapolis police officers are for a reliable Tac channel while fighting crime.

Handcuffed by FCC regulations, many officers are now cracking the cover on Technician Class License study guides to earn their Amateur Radio ticket.

This past weekend three Metro Police officers showed up on the door step of the VE team in Franklin, Indiana. All three passed their test and are anxiously awaiting their new call sign.

Further, this same ARRL examination team is working with one of the newly licensed officers to provide a test session at one of the Indianapolis Metro Police roll call sites so more officers have the opportunity to test and join the ranks of licensed Amateur Radio Operators.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

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It will be interesting to see just how many Indianapolis police officers earn their ham radio tickets and how involved they become in that city's ham radio community. More on this story as it becomes available. (ARNewsline(tm), W9ISH)

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THE EXAM SYSTEM: FCC SAYS NO TO QUESTION POOL SIZE INCREASE

The FCC has denied a petition to increase the size of the question pools used to create amateur radio exams. Back in April of 2008, Michael Mancuso, KI4NGN, of Raleigh, North Carolina, had filed a petition with the FCC, seeking to increase the size of the question pools from 10 times the number of questions on an exam to 50 times more questions.

Now, almost a year later the FCC has told Mancuso that it is denying his request. The regulatory agency says that in it's view, Mancuso did not present grounds for the Commission to amend its rules. It also noted that the purpose of the examinations is not to demonstrate an applicant's comprehension of certain material, but rather to determine whether he or she can properly operate an amateur station.

In his rules change request Mancuso had claimed that the current question pool is too easy to memorize and that there has been a significant increase

in the number of Amateur Radio operators receiving their licenses over at least the last decade or more who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by the class of license that they have received. But the FCC said it does not see it that way. In fact, the regulatory agency says that this claim on Mancuso's part is not supported by any data or facts.

An interesting open forum discussion on this topic started by KI4NGN is currently taking place on QRZ dot com. You will find it at http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t7338 (ARNewsline(tm), QRZ.com)

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RADIO LAW: YOU DO NOT NEED TO SHOW THE PAPER ON THE WALL

The FCC has denied a request from Thomas Baldwin, KA6ZPY, of Anaheim, California, who wanted a rule that would force all radio amateurs to post their original license document at the operating position for the licensee's station. In denying his petition, the FCC noted that this was a requirement until 1994. It was eliminated when the Part 97 rules were amended to authorize operation of an amateur station on the basis of the licensee data appearing in the amateur service licensee database.

The FCC says that the change was made in order to eliminate the delay between the time a license is granted and the time that the licensee may begin to operate. Another reason for the rule change was that it is no longer necessary to require the license document to be immediately available because a licensee's authorization now can be confirmed by the information in the licensing database. The FCC did note that there is no rule that prevents licensees from posting their license should they so desire. (FCC)

**

RADIO POLITICS: COMMISSIONER ADELSTEIN TO GET WHITE HOUSE APPOINTMENT

FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein is expected to be nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as Administrator for the Rural Utilities Service. This is an office of the Rural Development Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The ARRL reports that on Friday, March 20, the President announced his intention to nominate the Democratic FCC Commissioner to that post. It is speculated that Adelstein will not leave the five-member Commission until at least one of the three Commissioner vacancies is filled, since his departure would leave the FCC without a quorum. Adelstein's nomination will need to be confirmed by the US Senate. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W3OC repeater serving North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: FRANK BAUER, KA3HDO RETIRES FROM ARISS

Frank Bauer KA3HDO has announced his resignation from all of his duties with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. Amateur radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, has the details:

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Frank Bauer's stunning announcement came March 24 during a special teleconference of those associated with the many programs engaged in amateur radio activities in space.

"I'm going to need to step down from all of my ARISS duties and that includes, you know, the work I've been doing with the NASA Education Office as the ARISS program leader, and, then also, my support as the ARISS international chair, my responsibilities as the ARISS U.S. delegate and my responsibilities to AMSAT as the AMSAT vice president for human space flight programs," Bauer told the group dialed in from the U.S. and other international spots.

Bauer said family health issues and increasing responsibilities in his job at NASA, where he is the chief engineer for the space agency's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, played a role in his decision.

This group is working on the next generation of space vehicles which will carry astronauts to the International Space Station, the moon and Mars.

He thanked members of the ARISS international community and AMSAT for their dedication to the programs.

"I want you to all recognize that you all have, amongst yourselves and as a team, grown this team over the past decade and a half, the ARISS team, to a substantially large working group that actually can lead and direct a whole lot of things, " Bauer said.

"So don't lose sight of that. And don't lose sight of the fact that what you're trying to do as a team is to inspire our next generation of young children and students to get involved in space and ham radio and math and science and technology."

Bauer also paid tribute to those who helped make amateur radio in space possible.

"It's crucial that we identify and recognize the space agencies for their help and guidance in making ARISS a success and making it happen," Bauer said.

"They provided the resources, both financial as well as resources like equipment, you know, upmasts and time with the crew, to make ARISS a truly phenomenal educational outreach activity."

And, finally, Bauer paid respects to a man who was so instrumental in getting amateur radio into the space program: the late Roy Neal, K6DUE.

"We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for Roy, because Roy is the one that got the first space agency, NASA, interested in doing amateur radio on a human space flight vehicle," Bauer said.

"He had the tenacity, the courage and the authority to actually make this happen; and for that we thank him for what he has done to allow us to be where we are today."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia

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KA3HDO announced that AMSAT's Will Marchant, KC6ROL, will succeed him as the new AMSAT vice president for human space flight. Marchant also will become the new AMSAT USA delegate for the ARISS international working group. (ARNewsline(tm), NT3V)

**

RADIO LAW: NEXT WRC IN GENEVA IN 2011

The next World Radiocommunication Conference is tentatively scheduled for October 24th to November 18th, 2011, in Geneva, Switzerland. The agenda for WRC-11, developed by the delegates at the last conference in 2007 has 25 agenda items addressing potential new or revised spectrum allocations to existing services.

Of most interest to amateurs is agenda item 1.23. It will consider developing an allocation of about 15 kHz in part of the band from 415 to 526.5 kHz on a secondary basis to the amateur service.

These periodic World Radiocommunication Conferences are comprised of the member states of the International Telecommunication Union. Their primary mission is to consider allocations to the various radio services, including the frequencies used by radio amateurs. Attendees also evaluate what new technologies and applications should be addressed by future conferences. (RW)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAMS WIND DOWN FIRE SUPPORT DOWN UNDER

Summer is gone down-under and so have the Australian bush fires. Ham radio communications assistance has also wound down as we hear from Jim Linton, VK3PC.

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It is six weeks since the Black Saturday disaster that involved a third of Victoria claiming 210 lives, destroying more than 2000 homes, wiping out townships and killing farm animals and wildlife in its path.

WICEN Victoria is tallying up its deployment which lasted 28 days and involved 52 radio amateurs including two-each from New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

WICEN Secretary Mark Dods, VK3XMU, says the deployment went as well as possibly could be expected.
One of its designated roles is to provide relief operators for other agency communications equipment and that it did in a commendable fashion at a number of Incident Control Centers and a Municipality Emergency Coordination Center.

Just like the debriefing process now underway for all emergency services and response agencies, WICEN, too, will be looking at its performance and to identify room for improvement.

Another aspect of the disaster is how the fire storm affected communications. The satellite navigation systems which were meant to guide emergency services failed because the smoke was too thick to get the GPS signals from satellites.

Some crews had to open up their printed maps and old-fashioned Melway directories to do the job. And with power failures, the old-fashioned battery-powered radio was the only way for people in its path to keep reliably informed of the bush fires.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

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This year's Australian fire season may now be over, but the hams down under
are well aware that they will likely be called out again next year if the hot dry temperatures return. (WIA News)

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RESCUE RADIO: VK HAMS SUPPORT OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP

Meantime, ham radio operators down-under are supporting clean up efforts in the wake of a massive oil spill. This, after some 230 tons of crude escaped from a tanker off the Queensland coast and become an environmental hazard to some 60 kilometers of Australia's coastline.

About 350 people have joined the clean-up as well as caring for wildlife that may be affected. Among the resources being utilized is the Sunshine Coast Amateur Radio Club's emergency communications van that has been based at Kawana Surf Club on the Sunshine Coast.

The van was donated by the Maroochy Shire Council. Volunteers at the club converted it into a mobile emergency communications unit. Using it, radio amateurs have been deployed to the spill site operating under the auspices of Emergency Management Queensland.

In recent years, Queensland radio amateurs have volunteered to become members of the State Emergency Service, in a dedicated communications unit. The group has built a communications network which is interoperable with Emergency Management Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the Australian Red Cross RECOM systems. (Amateur Radio Victoria)

**

RADIO LAW: IM NOT DEAD YET I'M JUST RESTING

From the "whoops they made a mistake" file comes word that the FCC wants to do some callsign swapping. This, after it learned that a ham the agency thought was dead, was, to use a Monty Python metaphor, just resting. The story goes this way.

On October 6, 2006, the FCC granted the call sign K4ZL as a vanity callsign to the Amateur Radio Station of Peter Birk. Based on information subsequently received by the Commission, it appears that the call sign K4ZL was made available under the vanity call sign system as a result of a defective cancellation of the license originally held by Elmer B. Jackson, Jr..

Jackson had received the K4ZL call prior to 1978 and it was due to expire on June 11, 2008. On October 3, 2006, the Commission received information indicating that Jackson had become a Silent Key on February 14, 2004. Based on this information, the license was canceled as of February 14, 2004. Birk then filed the above-captioned application, requesting that his license for Amateur Radio Station WB2DCG be modified to show the call sign K4ZL. This application was granted on October 21, 2006.

In June 2008, the FCC got a surprise. That's when Jackson contacted the Commission to report that he was not deceased and that he wished to renew his license and K4ZL callsign. Further review determined that the information submitted to the Commission in 2006 pertained to a different person with the same name.

Anyhow, to correct this error, the FCC is proposing to modify Birk's amateur radio license to show the call sign WB2DCG. That was the call sign assigned to Birk's amateur station prior to the grant of the K4ZL vanity call application. It also wants to modify Jackson's license from his present AJ4JT call back to K4ZL. It will do that shortly unless Birk decides to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org, and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

**

RADIO BUSINESS: BURGHARDT NO LONGER SELLING HAM RADIO GEAR

Call it a sign of the tough economic times we live in. This, with word that South Dakota-based Burghardt Amateur Center will no longer be selling ham radio gear.

As reported by the ARRL, on March 16, Jim Smith, W0MJY, the current owner of Burghardt, announced that his enterprise will no longer sell amateur radio transceivers and accessories. The company, now called Burghardt Radio Repair, has canceled all backorders and will concentrate on providing repair to ham radio gear.

Jim Smith's son Mike, KC0FTM, told the ARRL that even though the company has had to lay off a number of employees in the past couple of months, it will continue to operate and will concentrate on service. This, as it has done since 1973.

Burghardt Amateur Center was founded in by the late Stan Burghardt, W0IT, as Burghardt Radio Supply. In 1982 he sold the company to Smith, but he remained active in it until January 2002. Stan Burghardt passed away in 2004 at the age of 93. (ARRL, others)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: N8O FROM A CABOOSE IN OHIO

A special 6 meter event on rails. This, as Andy Sargent, N8OFS, announces that he will be active June 13th to the 15th as N8O 'portable caboose' from Jefferson, Ohio. His operation is to celebrate the 25th anniversary for the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railway. Listen out for him between 1800 to 0300 UTC on 52.525, 51.500 FM and 50.300 and 50.2 MHz SSB. QSL's go to N8OFS, PO Box 517, Jefferson, Ohio, 44047. For more details about the railroad, visit the Web page at: http://www.acjrscenic.net/history.htm (N8OFS)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MIT SCIENTISTS INVENT FAST CHARGE LION BATTERY

Materials scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology report that they've invented a new kind of lithium-ion battery. One that can fully charge or discharge in seconds instead of minutes.

Gerbrand Ceder is a professor of materials science and engineering at MIT. Along with his graduate student Byoungwoo Kang, he discovered a way to build lithium-ion batteries with a performance level more like that of ultra-capacitors. These are capacitors that store less energy but can charge and release it very quickly.

If commercialized, this new breed of Lithium Ion battery could allow future hybrid cars to rapidly recharge. It could also lead to improvements in two-way radio as well as to new consumer and industrial products. More is on-line http://www.spectrum.ieee.org/mar09/8149 (CGC from IEEE Spectrum)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SWISS HAM CUBSAT TO LAUNCH

The Swiss Cube Amateur Radio satellite is slated for a ride into space shortly on the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from India. Once orbited, the bird will operate on a downlink frequency of 437.505 MHz. The launch

will also carry several non-amateur satellites into space. If all goes as planned, all of the satellites may be on-orbit by the time you hear this report. (Southgate)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: 2001 MARS ODYSSEY SPACECRAFT RESTART POSTPONED

NASA has postponed a move to restart the data processing system on the 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft.

According to a news release from the space agency, the delay occurred on Tuesday, March 10th. This, after engineers noticed a spike in temperature on the craft's navigation camera. After consultation, mission managers decided to put off the computer reboot until they can probe the cause of the temperature rise. Odyssey has been put in safe mode in preparation for the reboot. A new date has not been set.

Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, are concerned that the Odyssey computer's memory may have been corrupted. This, from the many years of exposure to radiation in space.

The 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft was launched on April 7, 2001, and arrived at Mars on October 24, of that same year. It is a part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program. Odyssey is a long term project of robotic exploration of the red planet. (NASA)

**

WORLDBEAT - ATV GOING DIGITAL DOWN UNDER

The Brisbane, Australia amateur television repeater going digital. Three Brisbane-based radio clubs are combining their resources to provide the improved service. These are the South East Queensland ATV Group, Brisbane Digital ATV Group and Queensland Digital Group.

Using their combined talents, the VK4RMG ATV repeater will undergo a major refurbishment. This includes the instillation of an Australian-standard digital transmitter operating on 446.5 MHz.

Australia is among the latest nations moving its amateur television operations from analog to digital. Germany is believed to have been the first to begin making the digital ATV switch some time ago. (VK4YAR, WIA News, ARNewsline(tm))

**

WORLDBEAT: RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA POSTPONES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2009 Annual General Meeting of Radio Amateurs of Canada has been postponed. This, due to a change in the bookkeeping system at the Radio Amateurs of Canada headquarters office resulting in unforeseen complications. As a result, the meeting scheduled for May 24, 2009, in Quebec, has had to be canceled and a new date will be announced in the future. (RAC)

**

WORLDBEAT - RADIO CLUB CELEBRATES CROATIAN CITY

Croatia's Djurdjevac Radio Club will activate special event station 9A09P between now and December 31st. This, to celebrate the city of Djurdjevac. Operations will be on all bands and modes with special QSL card will be issued with the city's story on it. All QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the bureau. Under the new administrative division of Croatia, Djurdjevac gained the status of a city in 1997. (OPDX)

**

WORLDBEAT - ISRAEL'S HOLYLAND CONTEST 2008 RESULTS AVAILABLE

4Z4KX says that the results for Israel's 2008 Holyland Contest are now available on the IARC Web. The URL is www.iarc.org. 4Z4KX also notes that the 2009 Holyland Contest will take place on Saturday, April 18th, starting at 0000 hours, UTC. (IARC)

**

DX

In DX, word that NL8F will be active as E51COF for 14 days from Rarotonga Island through April 4th. Activity will be on 80 through 10 meters and possibly 17 meters on SSB only. QSL manager for this operation is K8NA.

SV1QN, SV1AIN, SV1GYG and SW1GYN will be active through month's end using their personal calls from the Greek resort island of Zakynthos. They are purportedly operating on 160 through 6 meters using all modes. QSL via each operator's home call.

Lastly, sponsors are being sought for the next DXpedition to Mogador island. Mogador was last activated in 2002 and another DXpedition is planned for late April 2009. Check out their website at www.mogador2009.altervista.org for more details.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEMS: MISSING SUNSPOTS MAY HAVE BEEN EMBEZZLED

And finally this week, word that the mystery of the missing sunspots and lack of propagation may have been traced, incredibly, to some of the same roots as the current global economic crisis. Newsline Roaming Investigative Reporter Pierre Pullinmyleg has roamed into his shortwave communications news transmission center with the details he has uncovered:

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It now appears zat convicted swindler Bernard Madoff not only made off with zee 65 billion dollars of investors' money, but with zee cycle 24 sunspots as well. A little-known corner of zee financial marketplace actually more of a back alley is zee sunspot futures market, where traders buy and sell

based on predicted sunspot values for a given date.

Our investigation has revealed that when the stock market was trading at ionospheric levels, Madoff accepted millions of dollars zat he promised to invest in future sunspots, but instead simply deposited in an offshore account in zee Serrano Bank on the fabled Ponzi Island IOTA NA-0401 for those who wonder. When zee time came to actually purchase the sunspots for cycle 24, the accounts set up for that purpose were empty. As a result, za sun has declared bankruptcy and zee universe has begun foreclosure proceedings.

Attorneys for zee sun are trying to negotiate a bailout package but are not optimistic that they can meet zee April 1st deadline.

From zee somewhat darkened beaches of Ponzi Island, zis is Pierre Pullinmyleg reporting for Newsline.

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Pierre says that he will be back in about 12 months to bring you up to date on further developments in the solar foreclosure proceedings. And just in case he did not mention it earlier, Pierre says to have a very happy April 1st. (Roving reporter Pierre Pullinmyleg via shortwave)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline <at> arnewsline <dot> org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org. Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also be sure to mark April 18th as this year's World Amateur Radio Day. World Amateur Radio Day will focus on the hobby as it empowers people and supports communities by providing emergency communication as well as public service oriented interaction for community and other special events.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno, Nevada, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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87. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 12 (Friday, March 27, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-27 21:23:17 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090327205031.AE223313FC@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2197
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 12
March 27, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + FCC Clarifies What Constitutes an Amateur Radio Repeater
* + North Dakota Hams Help to Head Off River Flooding
* + Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, Steps Down from ARISS and AMSAT Duties
* + FCC Proposes New Rules for Medical Devices Operating on 70 cm Band
* + Legislation Introduced in US Senate to Inventory Radio Spectrum
* + Hurricane Watch Net Seeks New Members
* FCC Corrects Call Sign Error
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
+ Get Ready for ARRL Field Day 2009
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

NOTE: There will be no ARRL Audio News April 3 or April 10. The ARRL
Letter will be distributed one day early on Thursday, April 9, as ARRL
HQ is closed Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> FCC CLARIFIES WHAT CONSTITUTES AN AMATEUR RADIO REPEATER

In December 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, President of the Northern
California Packet Association (NCPA), filed a Petition with the FCC,
asking for the Commission to clarify the definition of a repeater.
According to Part 97, Section 3(a)(39), a repeater in the amateur
service is "[a]n amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the
transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or
channels."
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Mitchell sought clarification on the word "simultaneously," asking if it referred to the signal information being retransmitted, or to the fact that the receiver and transmitter must both be active at the same time while acting on the same signal information. On March 23, 2009, the Commission clarified that even if there is a slight delay between what is received and what it transmits (as in the case of D-STAR and other digital repeaters), it is considered simultaneous if the receiver and transmitter are both active at the same time.

Mitchell pointed out in his petition that while the Commission's Rules specify on which bands amateur repeaters may operate, "some amateur repeaters are operating on bands other than set forth in Section 97.205(b) with systems that are essentially voice repeater stations, but that digitize and retransmit the user's voice, on the theory that because there is a small delay in retransmitting the signal of another amateur station, the signal is not 'simultaneously' retransmitted and, therefore, the system is not a repeater."

In its reply, the Commission pointed out that prior to 1994, a repeater was defined as "[a]n amateur station that automatically retransmits the signals of other stations." This, the Commission told Mitchell, was revised to clarify "that certain accommodations for message forwarding systems do not apply to other operating activities such as repeaters and auxiliary stations." The Commission proposed to define a repeater as "[a]n amateur station that instantaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels," but ultimately replaced "instantaneously" with "simultaneously" because commenters noted that there is always a small propagation delay through a repeater. As one commenter explained, "The word 'simultaneously' in this case means that the repeater is receiving and transmitting concurrently, whereas each signal might be slightly displaced in time between receive and transmit."

To be able to repeat another station's transmission, the Commission said that a repeater "must be able to receive a transmission from another station and retransmit it. Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit,' we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time."

==> NORTH DAKOTA HAMS HELP TO HEAD OFF RIVER FLOODING

Early on Friday, March 27, the Red River -- the natural boundary separating North Dakota and Minnesota -- rose to 40.32 feet, more than 22 feet above flood stage and inches more than the previous high water mark of 40.10 feet set April 7, 1897. According to Mark Johnson, KC0SHM, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs (RRRA) <http://www.rrra.org/>, hams are "substantially involved" with the flood operations. "This flooding event is impacting residents in both North Dakota and Minnesota" he told the ARRL. "National Weather Service forecasters are

predicting that the river will crest to 41 feet, maybe even as high as 43 feet, by Saturday."

Johnson said that on March 22, officials in North Dakota's Cass County and Minnesota's Clay County requested the assistance of local amateurs. Hams set up local nets on the W0ILO repeater system, using 444.875+ and 145.350-. "Initially, hams supported the area, helping out with coordinating food and water requests for the Salvation Army and Red Cross," he said. "In addition, Clay County hams have been heavily involved with coordinating sand and sandbag logistics."

In Fargo, schools were closed and trials in the municipal court were suspended. According to "The New York Times," hundreds of people swarmed onto the floor of the Fargodome, home of the North Dakota State University football team and where a rodeo had been scheduled for this week. In the center of the stadium, the "Times" reported that "mountains of clay- and rock-filled sand were surrounded by college students, children, members of the National Guard and ordinary residents, all bearing shovels and filling white sandbags. Thousands of volunteers -- from places as far as Florida and Alaska -- have filled 2.5 million sandbags in just five days. Little forklifts whirred around bearing pallets of bags and dump trucks drove through delivering more sand, even as volunteers offered 'fresh hot cookies,' neck massages and tetanus shots" <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/27/us/27flood.html?_r=1&ref=us >.

Johnson said that as the river continues to rise and sandbagging operations near completion, "ham activity is morphing from dike preparations to developing emergency communications for evacuations, in the event should that become necessary. As of Thursday, March 26, we are currently communicating between three hospitals, two county Emergency Operation Centers, volunteer centers, the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross, the Coast Guard and a helipad." Johnson said these are 24 hour operations.

"Honestly, I do not know the number of hams participating; I would estimate roughly 30 or more at this time to support the operations," Johnson told the ARRL. "The volunteer response has been enormous -- we believe we have enough volunteers on hand to manage through the weekend. After the weekend, we are relying on other area hams who have responded to the call that are standing by." Since all resource needs are being met by amateurs in the North Dakota and Minnesota Sections, ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, said that there is no need for Amateur Radio assistance from other Sections at this time.

Cass County Sherriff Paul Laney told the "Times" that south of the city -- near the Red River and the Wild Rice River -- 46 residents and 12 pets had to be rescued by boat from homes in which water had pressed through sandbags and made its way into first floors, and that on Thursday, he and his officers were headed off on boats to make 11 additional rescues.

Concerns about major flooding extend well beyond Fargo. Throughout parts of North Dakota and western Minnesota, residents are bracing for the Red River, nearby streams and rivers and the Missouri River to spill their banks -- the result, according to the NWS, of a combination of factors. In the fall, the flat terrain was saturated by rain, followed by a winter of heavy snow, and now -- as so much snow began melting -- came days more of rain and, on Wednesday, half a foot of snow in some places.

In the Canadian province of Manitoba, the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization and the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program have requested assistance from local ARES groups there to help out with the flooding on that side of the border, said Radio Amateurs of Canada's Manitoba Section Emergency Coordinator Don Gerrard, VE4DWG. "Both organizations are in the process of activating their Emergency Operations Centers and have requested ARES radio operators to begin staffing the radio room at the facilities beginning Monday March 30, 2009," he posted on an RAC ARES reflector. "Jeff Dovyak, VE4MBQ, District Emergency Coordinator of the Capital Region, advises that he is beginning the process of scheduling ARES radio operators for these current taskings. Further requirements are likely as water levels rise, and will be communicated when received."

"As both a ham and a resident of Fargo, I am deeply touched by the community outpouring of support for fellow man," Johnson said. "Volunteers by the thousands have poured into churches to help with food, volunteer centers to help fill sand bags and to the front lines for sand bag placement. Everyone pray for us -- we need a miracle for the community as a whole to pull this off."

==> FRANK BAUER, KA3HDO, STEPS DOWN FROM ARISS AND AMSAT DUTIES

Citing personal and professional reasons, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, announced on March 24 that he will be step down from all his ARISS duties, effective immediately. Bauer served as ARISS Program Leader, ARISS International Working Group Chair and as the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation's (AMSAT) <http://www.amsat.org/> Vice President for Human Spaceflight Programs, a position he has held since 1991. He is also one of two ARISS USA delegates, serving with ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO.

Bauer is currently the Chief Engineer for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate at NASA. This directorate is developing the next generation human spaceflight vehicles that will take NASA to the International Space Station (ISS) <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html> and then to the Moon, Mars and beyond. He is also providing some backup support to the Space Operations Chief Engineer who supports the space shuttle and ISS programs. "Work responsibilities, which have increased substantially over the past couple of years, coupled with some recent health issues within my immediate family, led me to the conclusion that I could not continue to provide the leadership and passion that has been characteristic of my past support to these amateur radio endeavors,"

Bauer explained. "This was a very hard decision. I will certainly miss the phenomenal ARISS international team and our mission to inspire the next generation of space explorers using ham radio as our platform. But I thought it would be best to step down at this juncture. Over the past 12 years, we have developed, mentored and matured an outstanding volunteer team with a wide breadth and depth. I am fully confident that they will keep the ARISS program running smoothly without missing a beat."

AMSAT-NA President Barry Baines, WD4ASW, has tapped Will Marchant, KC6ROL, to become the next AMSAT Vice President for Human Spaceflight Programs and the AMSAT USA delegate of the ARISS International Working Group. "AMSAT is fortunate that we have a very capable leader in Will Marchant who is intimately familiar with ARISS, our extensive human spaceflight program, and is well respected internationally," Baines said. "Frank's leadership has left a significant mark on the overall ARISS program and the cooperative relationship between Amateur Radio, NASA and other governmental space agencies; however, Frank also ensured that his team evolved to the point where the work that he pioneered will be carried on by those that he mentored and encouraged to take on greater responsibility."

In his new role, Marchant will work with White and the other ARISS International Delegates and the ISS Space Agencies to coordinate the development and operations of the Amateur Radio systems onboard the ISS. White said that she looks forward to working with Marchant in his new role: "He has provided outstanding leadership and support to ARISS from its very beginning, most recently as an Operations Team Leader. He helped pioneer the school group mentor role as part of the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) program in the early 1990s <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/reference/radio/sarex.html>. Frank will be missed tremendously. It is incredible how much volunteer time and effort he put into ARISS educational activities; it was easy to see it was his passion."

With Bauer stepping down from the ARISS International Chairman role, ARISS International Vice Chair Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, will become the ARISS International Chairman, effective immediately. Bertels has been a leader of ARISS from its inception and serves as the Chairman of the ARISS-Europe team. He has established a close relationship between ARISS and the European Space Agency (ESA). This resulted in the development and the installation of ARISS L- and S-band antennas on the nadir of Columbus, the European Space Laboratory. Bertels also chairs IARU Region 1's Amateur Radio Space Exploration Working Group (ARSPEX). "We can understand the reasons of Frank Bauer's resignation," Bertels said, "but we also feel how difficult this decision has been. Frank has inspired a worldwide group of passionate radio amateurs, working together to a common goal. Now it is up to us to continue in the same direction and with the same spirit. That's the best farewell present we can offer Frank."

Bauer's departure represents the culmination of more than 25 years of leadership and support to Amateur Radio activities on human spaceflight vehicles, including NASA-sponsored ham radio activities on the shuttle, Space Station Mir and the ISS. Starting in 1983, he led the Goddard Amateur Radio Club team that provided around-the-clock space shuttle retransmissions from the WA3NAN club station. These retransmissions provided the international ham radio community with up-to-the-minute information during the flight of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, on STS-9 <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/archives/sts-9.html> and subsequent SAREX flights. In the days prior to the Internet, these real-time bulletins and frequent orbital element updates could only be obtained through Amateur Radio.

In 1996, when the International Space Station design development was well underway, NASA Headquarters Education Office Executive Pam Bacon (Mountjoy) requested that the Amateur Radio community form a single, international team to provide one voice for all ham radio development and operations on the ISS. The SAREX Working Group, led by Roy Neal, K6DUE, was tapped to turn this vision into reality. In November 1996, Neal and White, under the auspices of the ARRL, Bauer and NASA's Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL, organized a joint NASA-international Amateur Radio meeting at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. This led to the formulation of the ARISS International Working Group of delegates representing Canada, Europe, Japan, Russia and the US, leading up to the current day ARISS program.

Since the beginning, the ARISS team of volunteers has developed and deployed ham radio equipment that resides in three modules of the ISS -- the Service Module, the FGB and the Columbus Module, as well as having deployed a short duration satellite in a space suit called SuitSat-1/Radiosskaf/AO-54 <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/BauerSuitsat/index.php>. These systems enable the ARISS team to inspire more than 15,000 students each year, encouraging them to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through Amateur Radio communications with the ISS on-orbit crew. It also introduces these students and millions from the worldwide general public to the fun, exciting, multi-faceted world of Amateur Radio. -- Information provided by AMSAT

==> FCC PROPOSES NEW RULES FOR MEDICAL DEVICES OPERATING ON 70 CM BAND

On March 20, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf>, proposing to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices, called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

The FCC said that several proponents claim that this technology "could revolutionize medical treatment and therapy for millions of people living with brain and spinal cord injuries and neuromuscular disorders such as multiple sclerosis, polio, cerebral palsy and ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as 'Lou Gehrig's Disease'), as well as numerous other neurological disorders. It could be used in conjunction with next-generation prosthetic limbs to provide wireless sensation and control to the prostheses. Of particular note, this technology can provide an important tool in the medical treatment and care of numerous US soldiers who suffered spinal cord, brain and other serious injuries in Iraq, Afghanistan and other missions abroad."

Last month, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with officials of the Alfred Mann Foundation, developers of the implanted neuromuscular microstimulators, to discuss ARRL concerns with the NPRM. Imlay and Price both came away satisfied that the project should have little, if any, impact on Amateur Radio operators. "There are redundant layers of interference rejection mechanisms built into the product that should protect its users from being impacted by strong Amateur Radio signals," Price said. "The very low power output of these devices should have no impact on the Amateur Radio Service. The ARRL Executive Committee will monitor this filing and take action as appropriate."

The FCC is seeking comments on the feasibility of allowing up to 20 MHz of spectrum in the 413-457 MHz band to be used under the Medical Device Radiocommunication Service (MedRadio Service, formerly the Medical Implant Communications Service [MICS]) in Part 95 of the Commission's rules, and seeks comments on the allocation of four specific segments for this purpose: 413-419 MHz, 426-432 MHz, 438-444 MHz and 451-457 MHz. The Commission also seeks comments on the prospective service and technical rules that would govern MMN operations, such as transmitter power, emission bandwidth, duty cycle, contention protocols, and other operating specifications that generally comport with the framework of the existing MedRadio Service.

==> LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN US SENATE TO INVENTORY RADIO SPECTRUM

Two US Senators -- Democrat John Kerry of Massachusetts and Republican Olympia Snowe of Maine -- have introduced a bill in the Senate that would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/> and the Federal Communications Commission. The inventory would include those frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies.

The proposed legislation, known as the "Radio Spectrum Inventory Act" <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.649:>, states that the NTIA and the FCC would be required to inventory the spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. Both agencies would need to prepare a report listing the licenses or government user assigned in the band, the total spectrum allocation, by band, of each licensee or

government user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the number of intentional radiators and end-user intentional radiators that have been deployed in the band with each license or government user. Additionally, if the information is applicable, the report would be required to show the type of intentional radiators operating in the band, the type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized to operate in the band, contour maps that illustrate signal coverage and strength and the approximate geo-location of base stations or fixed transmitters. The report would then be sent to the Senate's Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and to the House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The bill also mandates that both agencies create a centralized portal or Web site that lists each agency's band inventories. This information would then be made available to the public via an Internet-accessible Web site. Both agencies would also be required to make all necessary efforts to maintain and update the inventory information "in near real-time fashion and whenever there is a transfer or auction of licenses or change in allocation or assignment." The bill includes an exemption for licensees or users if they can demonstrate that disclosure would be harmful to national security.

"Our public airwaves belong to the American people, and we need to make certain we are putting them to good use in the best interests of those citizens," Senator Kerry said. "Last year's 700 MHz auction resulted in $20 billion for the treasury and will create greater opportunity and choice for consumers and businesses that need broadband service. We also took a great step forward when the FCC established a way for unlicensed devices to operate in white spaces. These two initiatives are evidence of how valuable spectrum is and how it serves as fertile grounds for innovation. We need to make sure we're making as much of it available to innovators and consumers as possible."

"Used by millions of consumers and countless businesses on a daily basis, wireless technology is a proud part of America's innovative history and a key to its economic future," Senator Snowe said. "But as radio spectrum is already a scarce yet valuable resource in many areas, we must ensure that this public good is allocated and used efficiently for the needs of the American people. This legislation is the first step to addressing comprehensive spectrum reform and will work to enhance advanced communications services to keep people on-line and in touch."

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, said that the bill is in its infancy and that there is no corresponding legislation in the House of Representatives: "The text of the proposed legislation neither exempts Amateur Radio nor considers the frequency-agile and unfixed nature of most Amateur Radio operations. This bill merits watching and presents amateurs an opportunity to educate their Senators about the nature of our stations and our Service."

The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Bill Nelson, a Florida Democrat, and Roger Wicker, a Mississippi Republican.

==> HURRICANE WATCH NET SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

With hurricane season approaching, the various organizations that assist the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> in Miami are gearing up for what could be a very active storm season. One organization that assists the NHC is the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <http://www.hwn.org/>. To better assist the NHC, HWN Manager Dave Lefavour, W7GOX, told the ARRL that the HWN is looking for new members. "The Hurricane Watch Net relies on volunteer operators -- our members -- who serve as our net control stations," he said. "HWN members are hams who have above-average stations, are capable of effectively conducting HF net operations and are willing to commit their time to operating in support of the HWN's mission during Net activations. The Net sessions can be long, and, in the recent absence of sunspots, pretty grueling."

Lefavour said that the HWN is looking for new members with stations that can effectively communicate with Central America and the Caribbean, Mexico and South Texas on the 20 meter band. "With the low solar activity, our Assistant Net Manager Brad Pioveson, W9FX, is very interested in finding more members that can help with Net Control Station duties on the low ends of the 40 and 80 meter phone bands," Lefavour said, "as we're having to broaden our focus from only operating on 14.325 MHz. During the 2008 hurricanes, 20 meters died after the Sun went down -- we no longer had the ability to effectively communicate with reporting stations or the National Hurricane Center. So in preparation for the 2009 hurricane season, we're open to applications from qualified amateurs who are located anywhere within North America or the Caribbean. With propagation having been so unpredictable in the past couple of years, you never know who's going to be able to hear the hurricane-affected area."

Lefavour said that bilingual hams are especially welcome: "We recognize that some Latin American operators hesitate to check in and send reports to us if they aren't fluent in English, so we're also interested in hearing from hams that are fluent in both Spanish and English. When we're working storms that are either affecting or threatening areas where Spanish is the language of choice, we always try to have one or more bilingual HWN members on hand to help with reporting. Those who have previously applied for HWN membership are encouraged to submit new applications. New applicants are also encouraged to apply."

Lefavour said that the Hurricane Watch Net is generally activated when a named Atlantic basin storm is within 300 miles of landfall. Hurricane season in the Atlantic Ocean runs from June 1-November 30, peaking from late August through September; the Pacific Ocean season runs from May 15-November 30. Of course, hurricanes may occur at any time of the year. The Tropical Meteorology Project at Colorado State University predicts that the 2009 hurricane season will see above-average activity with 14 named storms and seven hurricanes, three of which will be Category 3 or higher. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) defines a normal hurricane season as having 9-12 named storms -- with 5-7 of those reaching hurricane strength -- and 1-3 major hurricanes.

==> FCC CORRECTS CALL SIGN ERROR

In October 2006, Peter Birk (formerly WB2DCG) of Virginia Beach, Virginia, applied for a vanity call sign, K4ZL, under the FCC's Vanity Call Sign Program. This call sign was previously held by Elmer B. Jackson, Jr of Lavergne, Tennessee. Jackson held this call sign since before 1978; it was set to expire June 11, 2008. In October 2006, the Commission received notification that Jackson had passed away February 14, 2004, so the FCC canceled his license as of this date. More than two years after the date of Jackson's death, Birk applied for and received K4ZL.

Per FCC rules pertaining to vanity call signs, certain family members and previous holders of the call sign are eligible to receive the dead person's call sign; after the two year period, the call sign is open for anyone to acquire it under the vanity call sign program.

In June 2008, Jackson notified the FCC that he was still very much alive and that he wished to renew his license. According to the FCC, based upon information they had received, "it appears that the call sign K4ZL was made available under the vanity call sign system as a result of a defective cancellation of the license originally held by Jackson. Further review determined that the information submitted to the Commission in 2006 pertained to a different person with the same name."

On Friday, March 27, Birk told the ARRL he had no idea Jackson had passed away. "There was no way for me to know that Elmer Jackson was not dead at the time I applied for K4ZL," Birk said. "In fact, the FCC believed he was dead, as well."

On March 23, the FCC released an Order Proposing Modification and concluded that cancelling K4ZL in 2006 "was defective" and that the call sign should not have been made available in the vanity call sign pool <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-656A1.pdf>. To correct this error, the FCC "propose[s] to exchange K4ZL with the call sign previously assigned to Birk's amateur radio station, WB2DCG; and concurrently to assign call sign K4ZL back to Jackson's license, which was reinstated under call sign AJ4JT."

The Commission cited Section 316(a)(1) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended <http://law.onecle.com/uscode/47/316.html>, saying it "provides the appropriate vehicle for resolving this matter. Section 316(a) permits the Commission to modify a station license if the action will promote the public interest, convenience, and necessity. In this connection, we note that the proposed modification would serve the public interest by ensuring that a licensee is not harmed by having his or her license canceled based on erroneous information submitted by a third party."

In accordance with Section 97.27(b) of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.27.pdf>, the FCC will not issue a modification order "until Birk has received notice

of our proposed action and has had an opportunity to file a protest." Birk has 30 days from March 23 to submit a written statement to the FCC "with sufficient evidence to show that the modification would not be in the public interest." If Birk chooses not to file a protest, he will have waived his right to protest the modification and will have deemed to have consented to the modification.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun was warm but the wind was chill" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Currently, USAF and NOAA predict a planetary A index of 8 for today, March 27, then leveling off at 5 (a very quiet, stable level) until April 9-10 when it jumps to 15, then 10. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions March 27, quiet March 28-29, quiet to unsettled March 30-31 and back to quiet for April 1-2. Sunspot numbers for March 19 through 25 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.1, 68.7, 70.1, 68.7, 68, 69.1, and 68.5 with a mean of 68.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 4, 8, 4, 3, 8 and 10 with a mean of 5.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 2, 5, 4, 2, 6 and 7 with a mean of 4.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Robert Frost's "Two Tramps in Mud Time" <http://www.etymonline.com/poems/tramps.htm>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for the CQ WW WPX Contest (SSB) and the EU EME Contest on March 28-29. Next week, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is April 3. On April 4-5, check out the Montana QSO Party, the Missouri QSO Party, the QCWA Spring QSO Party, the ARCI Spring QSO Party, the SP DX Contest and the EA RTTY Contest. The 144 MHz Spring Sprint is April 6 (local time). All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* Get Ready for ARRL Field Day 2009: The official 2009 ARRL Field Day Web page is up and running <http://www.arrl.org/FieldDay>. This page includes a summary of available resources, with links to Field Day forms and rules, logos and reference links. The page also includes a quick link to the map-based Field Day Station Locator where users can search for public Field Day sites. "Field Day is the largest on-the-air operating event," said ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The

event draws tens of thousands of radio amateurs to the airwaves over a single weekend." This year, Field Day is June 27-28. According to Henderson, it has become a tradition to create a new logo each year to commemorate Field Day: "This year's logo evokes a sense of the 'great outdoors' in camp-like fashion. We hope the logo inspires even more participants to get active, get outdoors and get on-the-air." This year's logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS. The Field Day page also includes a link for ordering commemorative Field Day T-shirts, hats, pins and other supplies. All of the items are available for ordering now; many of the items are already in stock. Radio clubs are encouraged to order early.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 5, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 17, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Good Friday on Friday, April 10. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. "The ARRL Letter" will be posted a day early on Thursday, April 9; there will be no "ARRL Audio News" on April 3 or April 10. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, April 13 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers

informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News
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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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88. Re: Another casualty of the times

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-30 03:48:36 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <diXzl.53374$eT1.40095@newsfe20.iad>
Source record: 2198

"K0HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:91663859790941B4B817B935A84FE329@Laptop...
>I received the following via email. This small-town business has been
>around since the 1930's. It's sad to see it diminished.
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
<snip>

Hello Hans,

I'm seeing this sort of stuff locally. One guy I've known for years has pretty much gotten out of the organ/keyboard repair and is doing sound installations. Much of the electronics is now throw-away. The margin for amateur gear is *very* slim at best. All the amateur radio retailers disappeared from the Rochester, NY, region probably about 25 years ago. The last one I remember was near the airport around 1985 and was gone in two years.

Rochester Radio was expanding in the 70s and it, too, disappeared in the early 80s. Very sad indeed.

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

89. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1650 - March 27 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-30 09:21:58 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <vit0t45slk0jq22fh9ejt4vop86fdtv40p@4ax.com>
Source record: 2199

On Fri, 27 Mar 2009 09:58:59 EDT, "William M. Pasternak"
<newsline@ix.netcom.com> wrote:
> [a story about Indianapolis Police getting ham licenses so that they
> can use ham radios to augment their communications during routine
> non-emergency police work.]

Even with a ham license, these police officers cannot legally use ham
radio frequencies for routine police business.

ï¿½97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

(a) No amateur station shall transmit:
....
(5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be
furnished alternatively through other radio services.

90. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1650 - March 27 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-30 21:03:38 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <IO6dnTTEl9QGrkzUnZ2dnUVZ_v7inZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2200

"Richard" wrote

Even with a ham license, these police officers cannot legally use ham
radio frequencies for routine police business.

97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

(a) No amateur station shall transmit:
.....
(5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be
furnished alternatively through other radio services.

I feared the same thing when I read the story. We hope that, while studying
their course materials, they'll realize the do's and don'ts of ham radio.

91. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1650 - March 27 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-30 22:08:16 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <p5q7a6-t1c.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2101

In article <vit0t45slk0jq22fh9ejt4vop86fdtv40p@4ax.com>,
Richard <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:

>Even with a ham license, these police officers cannot legally use ham
>radio frequencies for routine police business.
>
>97.113 Prohibited transmissions.
>
>(a) No amateur station shall transmit:
>....
>(5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be
>furnished alternatively through other radio services.

Also relevant:

97.113 Prohibited transmissions.

(a) No amateur station shall transmit:

(2) Communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or
indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules;

(3) Communications in which the station licensee or control operator
has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an
employer.

If the police are using amateur radio as a tac channel when they are
"on the clock" in performance of their duties, and are being paid,
then I believe they'd be in violation of both of these sections.

There have been _some_ exceptions made to these rules (e.g. allowing
emergency-service workers to partitipate in ham radio training
exercises while on-duty) but I don't think that these have been
expanded to cover _regular_ on-duty use of amateur radio.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

92. Is it time for a Contesting WIKIPEDIA?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-03-31 22:42:06 UTC
From: kzerohb@gmail.com
Message-ID: <d76476da-be96-4d3e-8a6d-c65e2ca1e415@z15g2000yqm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2102

The message below is forwarded from the CQ-contest reflector.

Reply direct to Pete at N4ZR@contesting.com

73, de Hans, K0HB/W7

------ FWD MSG ------

It occurs to me that it may be time to undertake the development of a
Contesting Wikipedia - a single, comprehensive source of information
for
and about contesting, contest station-building, operating, and
related
topics. At a minimum it could be a one-stop source for links to
information already on the web, but over time it could evolve into a
way of
making sure that all the good stuff out there doesn't vanish over time
into
the wayback machine.

Just testing the waters here ... if there's interest then I'll work
on
fleshing it out.

73, Pete N4ZR
the World Contest Station Database is back, and updated daily at
www.conteststations.com
Visit the Reverse Beacon Network at http://Skimmer.DXWatch.com

93. BREAKING NEWS: DAYTON HAMVENTION NAMES 2009 AWARD WINNERS

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-01 08:05:04 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090401005503.0164e9e8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2103
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

BREAKING NEWS FROM THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE - DAYTON HAMVENTION NAMES 2009 AWARD WINNERS

Hamvention¿½ 2009
PO Box 964, Dayton Ohio 45401-0964
On-Line: http://www.hamvention.org

News Release
March 31, 2009 For Immediate Release

Contact: Henry Ruminski, Media Chair
media@hamvention.com
937-232-9272

Hamvention¿½ Names 2009 Award Winners

DAYTON, OH -- The Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) will honor three amateur radio (ham) operators who have made significant contributions to the Amateur Radio Service, during Hamvention¿½ 2009 which opens in Hara Arena on May 15.

Recipients of this year's Hamvention¿½ awards are Amateur of the Year Wade D. "Danny" Hampton Jr., K4ITL, whose efforts helped create an extensive emergency radio network for North Carolina; Special Achievement winner Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, who introduced ham radio to thousands of students from the International Space Station (ISS); and Technical Excellence recipient Copthorne "Cop" Macdonald, VY2CM, a SSTV pioneer, ham radio author, and renewable energy advocate

Frank Beafore, WS8B, Hamvention¿½ Awards Chairman said the committee had a tough task selecting the winners from the number of worthy nominees. "We believe each winner has made a significant contribution to the ham radio community. We were again impressed with the quality of the nominations."

Hamvention¿½ Chairman Carl Rose, K8CPR, praised the winners, saying: On behalf of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association and Hamvention¿½ 2009 it is my pleasure to congratulate this years Award Winners. Their outstanding contributions and the many years of service exemplify what the amateur radio service is."

Amateur of the Year Wade D. "Danny" Hampton Jr., K4ITL, of Raleigh, North Carolina, is the architect of the Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network, established in the early 1970s, which today sports more than 40 machines in North Carolina. The system is heavily used for public service work. Hampton has enhanced the network's utility with custom audio processing boards and

RF components. The North Carolina Office of Emergency Management and SKYWARN have recognized the network's vital role in emergency communication. Recently, Hampton helped coordinate the development of a local hospital-based Amateur Radio emergency repeater system that ties 10 facilities together.

A ham since 1958, Hampton is Southeastern Repeater Association (SERA) technical committee chairman as well as ARRL North Carolina Section Technical Coordinator. "Danny's extensive knowledge of the two-way and broadcast radio industries in this state has enabled him to assist many repeater owners," said North Carolina SM John Covington, W4CC. "His advice in resolving RFI problems between repeater and commercial services, and other technical matters, has been extremely valuable to the Section."

The Hamvention 2009 Special Achievement Award winner Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, is a legendary video game programmer/designer and ham radio operator who was the sixth private citizen to fly to the International Space Station (ISS).

Like his father, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who made history as the first ham to communicate from space with radio amateurs during the STS-9 Space Shuttle mission, Richard was a ham radio pathfinder in his own right through on-orbit experimentation, implementation of new capabilities, extensive operations using many diverse operations modes, and phenomenal educational outreach initiatives that inspired and transformed the lives of tens of thousands students, worldwide.

Garriott was the most prolific ham radio operator to fly on a short duration (<15 day) mission. His 10 day stay on the ISS represented an unsurpassed opportunity for hams and students worldwide. Over 500 2-way voice QSOs were conducted, over a thousand SSTV images were down linked, and tens of hours of packet operations were performed. He communicated with tens of thousands of students in seven different Challenger Learning Centers in the U.S., the Austin Liberal Arts and Sciences Academy in Austin, Texas, the Pinehurst School in Ashland, Oregon, the Budbrooke School in the U.K., and the National Space Challenge in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Garriott also had numerous random chats with scouts world-wide as part of the amateur radio Jamboree on the Air (JOTA).

In an effort to kick-start the SSTV operations mode on ISS, Richard received a specially modified Kenwood VC-H1 from the ARISS team which was left on-board the ISS. This exciting, new capability will significantly enhance the stature of ARISS educational outreach. He performed numerous SSTV experiments, and helped the ARISS team test and debug several ham radio systems on ISS, including the software-based SSTV systems---SpaceCam and MMSSTV. In his short stay on ISS, he performed 10 times more SSTV downlinks than any other crew member on the Shuttle, Mir or ISS. .

The Hamvention award for Technical Excellence winner Copthorne "Cop" Macdonald, VY2CM, who got his first ham license at 15, and while an engineering student at the University of Kentucky designed and built the first ham radio SSTV system. The paper he wrote describing the system won

national first prize in the 1958 AIEE student paper competition. He worked with other SSTV pioneers to get the FCC to authorize SSTV operation in the HF ham bands an effort that succeeded in 1968.

Cop wrote many articles on SSTV for QST and CQ, and in 1973 started New Directions Radio a network of hams concerned with using ham radio and SSTV "to help create a more aware, more caring, and more responsible human society." Associated with this activity were his two magazine columns: "Cop's Column" in CQ and the "New Directions Radio" column in The Mother Earth News.

Cop moved to Prince Edward Island Canada in 1975. In the early 1980s he ran an energy conservation program there, and in the 1980s and '90s did much writing for the PEI and Canadian governments on energy conservation and renewable energy. At some point he realized that what we needed as individuals and a world society is that more insightful, more caring, more prudent way of being called wisdom. He has since written three books on that subject (Toward Wisdom, Getting a Life, and Matters of Consequence), and in 1995 started The Wisdom Page, a web presence devoted to wisdom resources now located at www.wisdompage.com.

Hamvention, the worlds largest amateur radio gathering, brings more than 20,000 people to the greater Dayton area each year. The three-day event includes exhibits, a flea market, forums and education sessions.

For more information about Dayton Hamvention 2009 (scheduled for May 15-17), visit the website at www.hamvention.org or e-mail media@hamvention.org.

Information provided by Henry Ruminski, Media Chair - Hamvention(r) 2009

94. Re: Is it time for a Contesting WIKIPEDIA?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-01 13:33:22 UTC
From: Mr Fed UP <mrfedup@bellsouth.net>
Message-ID: <EPEAI.23270$v8.18367@bignews5.bellsouth.net>
Source record: 2104

Well if your going to have a go at it... I would recommend browsing
some of the QST very early CD's that would be the basis for contesting,
In the wayback machine is CW transmissions that were tracked for time
to get messages across the coast. Even baseball scores... Communication
alternatives during foul weather when the telegraphs and phones were down
to rescue trains stuck with peoples lives at risk.
I found a lot of the articles interesting but did not keep track of the
issues
they were in. Happy hunting. The real background of ARRL
Radio Relays were a prime activity among early hams.
Earliest of coarse were spark gap. I can't imagine listening to static and
trying to pick out code buzz from noise. Hats off to the ol' brass
pounders.

73 Gary K4TWO

<kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:d76476da-be96-4d3e-8a6d-c65e2ca1e415@z15g2000yqm.googlegroups.com...
> The message below is forwarded from the CQ-contest reflector.
>
> Reply direct to Pete at N4ZR@contesting.com
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB/W7
>
> ------ FWD MSG ------
>
> It occurs to me that it may be time to undertake the development of a
> Contesting Wikipedia - a single, comprehensive source of information
> for
> and about contesting, contest station-building, operating, and
> related
> topics. At a minimum it could be a one-stop source for links to
> information already on the web, but over time it could evolve into a
> way of
> making sure that all the good stuff out there doesn't vanish over time
> into
> the wayback machine.
>
> Just testing the waters here ... if there's interest then I'll work
> on
> fleshing it out.
>
> 73, Pete N4ZR
> the World Contest Station Database is back, and updated daily at
> www.conteststations.com

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> Visit the Reverse Beacon Network at http://Skimmer.DXWatch.com
>
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95. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1651 - April 3 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-03 12:35:38 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090403000514.0164fbd8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2105
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1651 - April 3 2009

Note: This weeks newscast runs 31 minutes 23 seconds and contains 3 breaks.

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1651 with a release date of Friday, April 3rd, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

Amateur radio faces the raging Red River as it assists in flood relief duty; the Dayton Hamvention announces its 2009 award recipients, space adventurer Charles Simonyi KE7KDP, returns to the International Space Station; the Radio Society of Great Britain says that its time for A-M users to move off of a space to ground 2 meter frequency and the FCC says that P-R-B One does not really apply in a Yonkers, New York tower dispute. Find out why on an extended Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1651 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO FACES THE SWOLLEN RED RIVER

Ham radio was on the front lines as the swollen Red River brought flooding to parts of Southern Canada and into North Dakota and Minnesota. But in this case pre-planning by ARES really paid off as we hear in this report from Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V:

--

The members of the Red River Radio Amateurs in Fargo, North Dakota and Moorehead, Minnesota, had a luxury most hams don't have with an emergency upon them - time to prepare.

For those who have been following developments in the news media, the danger of flooding of the two cities straddling the river has passed and as Newsline goes to air, emergency communications operations are winding down.

The Red River crested Saturday, March 28, below the predicted 42-foot-level and has continued to go down, approaching 35 feet as our Friday, April 3 deadline approached.

Mark Johnson, KC0SHM, is president of the Red River Radio Amateurs and helped coordinate the response of a hearty group of more than 30 amateurs on both sides of the river.

Johnson says the good news is hams pulled together to help communities get through the crisis.

"People on both sides of the river, they're part of our local amateur radio family and truly there was no separation," Johnson says. "In fact, the operation itself really morphed into a single command situation where we operated together as one unified group.

"Being that we all know each other so well, there was absolutely zero segregation between section management lines and state lines and city lines. So, it was one group working for the common good of the area."

Johnson says the weather service predicted the rising river levels weeks in advance and that gave all the time they needed to get ready, pack and test radios, operating locations and repeaters.

"Our local repeater system utilizes both a VHF and a UHF repeater," says Johnson. "They're hot-linked together and that offered us a lot of flexibility. Hand-held coverage was excellent on the UHF repeater and we made great use of it."

Johnson says the hams began net operations on Sunday, March 22, supporting those on the front lines who were filling and placing sandbags along the Red River.

"In that capacity, we did a lot of roaming to basically patrol the streets looking for people that had need for additional supplies like food and what not," Johnson says.

"And they were able to guide the Salvation Army and, to some degree, the Red Cross as well to the hot zones - if you will - where people were needing the food and supplies to continue their operations. That would save them from having to stop sandbagging to go find something to eat."

As the sandbagging operation grew and more and more volunteers were brought in, the Red River Radio Amateurs moved to a 24-hour-a-day operation at a variety of locations.

"We operated upwards of 11 different locations throughout the city, not including the roaming vehicles," Johnson says. "At one point in time or another, and some of those positions included both Cass and Clay County Emergency Operations Centers.

" We also had positions stationed at two Red Cross locations, the Salvation Army. We had a group stationed with the West Fargo police department where the Coast Guard was stationed and an individual stationed at Innovi Hospital.

"And that's where basically any Coast Guard helicopters with people that were pulled from their homes or rescued, if they had a medical condition they were taken directly to Innovis."

Johnson says it was a tense time as the weekend of the projected crest of the river approached.

"Those were the days when people were scrambling, trying to finish up the levees," Johnson recalls. "We had just received word that the river crests were projected to go higher than anticipated. So there was a massive, massive volunteer push to get additional sandbags put in place.

"The difficulty was exacerbated by the snow that we had received which certainly made it a difficult challenge to both get vehicles and equipment where things needed to be and for the volunteer effort for people to get in from out of town to help.

"So, that Friday and Saturday were really just key days."

Johnson says it was a truly heroic effort put out by so many to save the communities.

"I think that the amount of effort that was put into the entire area - both with the amateur radio community and the non-amateur community doing other work from sandbagging to filling sand bags - I'm deeply humbled and touched at the amount of support we received from people in town and out of town to make it happen was absolutely critical.

"And had we not had that kind of help and resource and reaction from the people in the area, we would have never made it as far as we did."

In the Canadian province of Manitoba, the Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization and the City of Winnipeg Emergency Program requested assistance from local ARES groups there to help out with the flooding on that side of the border.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

Obviously this story is far from over and we will have more in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm) with thanks to KC0SHM, WD0AKO and RAC)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: GERMAN HAMS CLAIM TO BOUNCE SIGNALS OFF VENUS

A group of German hams claim that they have bounced a signal off the planet Venus. This in an experiment that they call EVE which is an acronym for Earth-Venus-Earth.

In a press release, Amsat Germany President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, reported that on March 25th a team from his organization used a ground station at the Bochum Observatory to transmit radio signals to Venus. He says that Morse code was used to transmit the well known letters "HI." This was the same message transmitted back to Earth from the early AMSAT OSCAR satellites.

But this time the trip in space was a lot longer than one to and from Earth orbit. After traveling almost 100 million kilometers round trip with an en-route delay of about 5 minutes, the two letters were clearly received back on Earth as echoes from the planets surface using.

DB2OS says that despite the bad weather, signals from Venus could be detected from 10:38 UTC until the planet reached the local horizon. He says that the experiment was repeated on Thursday, March 26th for several hours, again with good echoes from Venus.

Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, is very happy with the results of the EVE experiment. He calls it another milestone for ham radio on its way toward launching its own interplanetary probe towards planet Mars. (AMSAT-DL)

**

ENFORCEMENT: RSGB WILL ASK OFCOM TO HANDLE DOWNLINK INTERFERENCE TO ISS

A group of hams who seem to feel that they own the frequency that the International Space Station ham radio station uses as a downlink may soon come under the scrutiny United Kingdom radio regulator Ofcom. This, if the Radio Society of Great Britain proceeds with its plan to bring the matter before its enforcement branch. Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, reports:

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The RSGB are dismayed to learn that a small group of AM enthusiasts based in the West Lothian district of Scotland continue to cause what appears to be deliberate interference to the ISS downlink frequency of 145.800MHz during ISS passes.

The RSGB is concerned that despite several years of negotiation with this group and a change of band allocation to move them away from the internationally agreed ISS frequency, they continue to disrupt ISS operation by their selfish disregard of their fellow radio amateurs and the Band Plan.

The RSGB intends to bring the matter up formally with Ofcom at a meeting of the RSGB/Ofcom Forum in early April.

--

Until now, little has been known about this A-M group outside of Scotland. That is because their signals are on the downlink and therefore are not being heard by the crew ion board the I-S-S. But their refusal to off the air during those times that hams on the I-S-S are trying to make space to ground contacts has become annoying to those stations on the ground attempting to hear what the Astronaut ham radio operators on-orbit are trying to say. (RSGB)

**

RESTRUCTURING: BROADCASTERS BEGIN VACATING 40 METERS HAM BAND

Shortwave broadcasters have begun to vacate 7 point 1 to 7 point 2 Mhz in ITU regions 1 and 3. This a a new I-T-U rules became effective on March 29th.

Following on from the decision made during the World Radio Conference in 2003, the amateur service becomes the primary user in this high frequency segment world-wide. In layman's terms, this represents everywhere except the Americas, who have always enjoyed this segment as part of the 7 to 7.3MHz allocation in Region 2.

Although this date also coincides with the start of the HF broadcasting schedule, it would be naive to think the segment might be completely clear

of broadcasting stations on that date. However a number of international broadcasters have already have been noted to have moved closer to 7 point 5MHz. and away from operations in the ham radio band. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N9QIP repeaters serving America's great dairyland in the state of Wisconsin.

(5 sec pause here)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: DAYTON HAMVENTION ANNOUNCES 2009 AWARD WINNERS

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has selected the creator of an emergency communications network, a space explorer and an inventor to receive this years coveted Hamvention awards. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, has the details:

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Named as 2009 Amateur of the Year is Wade D. Hampton Jr., K4ITL, of Raleigh, North Carolina. Better known as Danny Hampton, K4ITL is the architect of the famed Piedmont Coastal Repeater Network. This system was first established in the early 1970's today serves more than 40 machines in North Carolina and is well known for its heavy use for public service work. And not all that long ago the North Carolina Office of Emergency Management and SKYWARN recognized the network's vital role in emergency communication.

A ham since 1958, Hampton is the Technical Committee chairman for the multi-state Southeastern Repeater Association as well as ARRL North Carolina Section Technical Coordinator. He is also credited with helping to coordinate the development of a local hospital-based amateur radio emergency repeater system that ties 10 facilities together.

The Hamvention 2009 Special Achievement Award goes to Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, the son of ham radio space pioneer Owen Garriott, W5LFL, who made history as the first ham to communicate from Earth orbit ground during the STS-9 Space Shuttle mission, The younger Garriott is a legend in his own right as one of the worlds best known and most highly respected video game programmer and designer. And like his father Richard Garriott has been a ham radio in space pathfinder in his own right.

W5KWQ was sixth private citizen to fly to the International Space Station. Through his on-orbit experimentation, his extensive operations using a number of diverse modes, and phenomenal educational outreach program he is said to have inspired and transformed the lives of tens of thousands students worldwide.

Garriott was also the most prolific ham radio operator to fly on a short duration mission. During his 10 day stay on the I-S-S he held over 500 two-way voice QSOs. Also, while on the I-S-S over a thousand SSTV images were down linked, and hours of packet operations were performed.

But more important were the one on one chats with classrooms. Using the ARISS station on board the orbiting outpost, W5KWQ communicated with students at seven different Challenger Learning Centers in the U.S. plus numerous other schools around the globe. He also had numerous random chats with scouts world-wide as part of the scouting's amateur radio Jamboree on the Air.

Last but by no means least, this years Hamvention award for Technical Excellence winner Copthorne "Cop" Macdonald, VY2CM. First licensed at age 15, Macdonald is best known as the father of Slow Scan amateur television. He developed the system in the 1950's while an engineering student at the University of Kentucky. The paper he wrote describing it won national acclaim and took first prize in the 1958 A-I-E-E student paper competition. Later, Macdonald worked with other slow scan pioneers to get the FCC to authorize operation of the mode in the High Frequency ham bands. That effort finally succeeded a decade later in 1968.

Macdonald has authored articles on slow scan for QST and CQ magazines. In 1973 he started New Directions Radio. This is a network of hams concerned with using ham radio and SSTV to help create a more aware, more caring, and more responsible human society.

With congratulations to all, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, for the Amateur Radio Newsline. Jim.

--

Danny Hampton, K4ITL, Richard Garriott W5KWQ and Cop Macdonald, VY2CM, will receive their awards during Hamvention 2009. That's slated for May 15th to the 17th at the Hara Arena in suburban Dayton, Ohio. Amateur Radio Newsline will again be there, providing comprehensive coverage of this years event. (Dayton Hamvention 2009)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: KE7KDP AGAIN OPERATING FROM THE ISS

American entrepreneur Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, is back in space and talking to kids in schools as well as the hams worldwide. This, from his perch some 250 miles straight up.

Simonyi was onboard a Russian Soyuz rocket that blasted off from Kazakhstan on Thursday March 26 and rendezvoused with the International Space Station the following day. Since then the software pioneer and aviator turned space explorer has been delighting hams on the ground with both voice contacts and slow scan pictures sent back from space.

In addition to his leisure time ham radio operations during his 13day stay, KE7KDP, is assisting with several research projects. He is also taking part in a series of live two way contacts with school classrooms world-wide

using ham station on board the ISS and the ground facilities of ARISS. The Amateur Radio station onboard the Space Station uses a downlink frequency of 145.800 MHz FM and moat Astronauts have tended to use that frequency for both voice and Slow Scan TV.

Simonyi's first trip to the space station in 2007 cost him an estimated $24 million. It is believed that this time it will have cost him $35 million by the time he returns to Earth on April 6th. More about Charles Simonyi's latest trip to the ISS is on-line at www.charlesinspace.com. (ARNewsline(tm) from various sources)

**

RADIO LAW: THE FCC SAYS YONKERS TOWER LAW NOT IN VIOLATION OF PRB-1

The FCC says that it will not retroactively extend PRB One to a Yonkers, New York tower and antenna case where the ham put up the structure before getting a proper permit. This, as it denies for a second time a request from Thomas R. Morrison, AB2PP, who wanted the FCC to intervene in his case. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more in this report:

--

By way of background, Thomas Morrison, AB2PP, had previously filed a request with the FCC for a declaratory ruling regarding his antenna tower. The FCC denied the request by a letter to him dated January 31, 2007. In that letter, the FCC explained that the Commission's PRB-1 decision requires that local regulation of amateur radio facilities must be the minimum practicable to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose. But PRB-1 does permit local authorities the right to determine what constitutes a reasonable accommodation based on the its legitimate purposes, policies and concerns. The FCC's 2007 letter also stated that the Commission does not have the resources to review all state and local laws that affect amateur radio operations. Rather, it is what the FCC terms as local tribunals that have authority to review local zoning decisions.

In his response to the Commission's decision against him Morrison again requested that the FCC find that the City's building permit requirements do not satisfy the legal requirements of PRB-1. He stated that since the FCC declined to act on his previous petition, the City Planning Board denied his request for a special use permit for his tower. Moreover, they also had indicted him for a misdemeanor for installing the tower without a permit. Morrison told the FCC that he has now filed litigation in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, requesting that it forestall the criminal trial.

But the FCC indicates that none of this is of any concern to that the agency. The FCC says that these intervening events do not affect its conclusion that, under the Commission's PRB-1 decision, Morrison has not presented an appropriate issue for Commission involvement. As such it will not support or act favorably on Morrison's request.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the Newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

The FCC says that Morrison's dispute with the city of Yonkers fundamentally involves whether its building code complies with PRB-1. It also notes that as PRB-1 recognizes that local tribunals have the authority to handle appeals of local decisions regarding antenna structures. As such the FCC says that the matter is best settled in what the regulatory agency terms as the appropriate forum. (FCC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ARRL - TAPER DCC WANTS PAPERS

According to a note from Steve Ford, WB8IMY, technical papers are being solicited for presentation at the 28th Annual ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference. That event is slated for September 25th to the 27th in Chicago, Illinois.

Steve says that papers will also be published in the Conference Proceedings exactly as submitted and authors will retain all rights. Also, authors do not have to attend the conference to have your paper included in the Proceedings.

The deadline for papers is July 31, 2009. Please send submissions to Maty Weinberg at ARRL Headquarters, 225 Main Street, Newington, Connecticut 06111. Papers can also be via e-mailed to maty (at) arrl (dot) org. (WB8IMY, ARRL)

**

ON THE AIR: NATA INAUGURATES 40 METER NEWS

The North American Traffic and Awards Net began meeting on 40 meters SSB on April 1st. The new nets meet on Sunday, Thursday, and Saturday on 7205 kHz starting at 0000 hours U-T-C with a late net at 0400 UTC. Both nets will last approximately one hour. This new net is in addition to the other North American Traffic and Awards Nets and comes exactly three months after the network returned to the air.

The North American Traffic and Awards Net also offers a series of free operating awards to anyone meeting the requirements for each award. All awards requirements and rules are on line at

www.northamericantrafficandawards.net. (NATA)

**

ON THE AIR: HPM STATION CHANGES 10 METER CHANNEL

The ARRL headquarters Hiram Percy Maxim W1AW Memorial Station recently began using a new 160 meter frequency for its CW transmissions. W1AW has moved to 1802.5 kHz in order to reduce the possibility of interference with other Top Band operations. The ARRL says that increasing activity near the previous bulletin frequency of 1817.5 kHz lead to the decision to make the change. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEW: DJ0QN NAMED ACTING DARC SECRETARY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

And a familiar name in the news. Mitch Wolfson, DJ0QN, has now taken over as Acting Secretary of International Affairs for the German national amateur radio society, the DARC. Wolfson succeeds Dennis Haertig, DL7RBI, who has moved to Switzerland for professional reasons.

Wolfson, is originally from Los Angeles, California, where he held the call WA6GSN. He currently holds the U-S call K7DX, is married to a German national, has two grown children and has lived in Munich over three decades. He is employed in the technology sector.

Over the years DJ0QN has been a contributor on ham radio happenings on the European continent for this news service. He tells Newsline that he will be covering both the giant Dayton and Friedrichshafen ham radio conventions for the DARC in the coming months. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE BPL WAR: INDUSTRY EXPRESSES DOUBTS OVER BPL

A year ago Broadband over Powerline Internet access was the fair hair boy of the business world. Now its detractors are growing as its champions fall away. Jim Linton, VK3PC, reports:

--

Strong doubts on BPL in the trade press.

It's encouraging to say the least that finally, the telecomms industry is admitting that Broadband over Powerlines has a multiplicity of issues in deployment.

According to the (3 March 2009 issue of the US industry journal Network World, it is now recognized that BPL doesn't really cut the mustard against alternative internet delivery technologies in under-served rural areas.

The three key points that publication makes are:

BPL networks have to be run jointly by an Internet Service Provider and an electricity utility; neither knows each other's business.

BPL is actually yet to be demonstrated working in a widespread deployment; a number of high-profile plans and installation trials over recent years have fallen through.

BPL has technological issues ranging from interference ingress and egress, power line noise and multiplexing problems.

Hardly a glowing endorsement of the technology!

Want to check out the Network World article, well its internet address is http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/031309-broadband-fiber-wire.html?page=1

I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

--

B-P-L still has a few big name industry supporters but by and large those who used to be its biggest boosters are now championing other ways to get on the net. (Spectrum Digest & Amateur Radio Victoria)

**

BREAK 3

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: SHORTWAVE BROADCAST LEGEND DICK SPEEKMAN - SK

We are sad to report the passing of another radio legend. This with world that Dick Speekman, a former host of Radio Netherlands DX Jukebox in the 1970's, and of Radio Australia's program Spectrum in the 1980's, died peacefully on March 11th at the Hawker Hospital, South Australia. Speekman had been suffering form colon cancer for some time. His funeral was held on Thursday, March 19th. (Media Network)

**

WORLDBEAT: RADIO AMATEURS OF CANADA POSTPONES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Turning to news from around the world, we first go North to where the 2009 Annual General Meeting of Radio Amateurs of Canada has been postponed. This, due to a shift in accounting procedures.

According to an announcement, a change in the bookkeeping system at the Radio Amateurs of Canada headquarters office resulting in unforeseen complications. As a result the Annual General Meeting of Radio Amateurs of Canada members, scheduled for May 24, 2009, in Quebec, has had to be canceled.

Radio Amateurs of Canada says that the presentation of an audited financial statement at the meeting is an important and long established practice. Because of the delay caused by the transfer to a new bookkeeping method, the possibility of having an audited statement being ready for the meeting is not possible. Another date and venue for the required 2009 Radio amateurs of Canada Annual General Meeting is being sought and will be announced as soon as it is known. (RAC)

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WORLDBEAT- RAC AND CANADIAN RED CROSS ENTER INTO MOU

Also, a renewed Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed between Radio Amateurs of Canada and the Canadian Red Cross Society. The document spells out certain obligations by Canadian ARES volunteers and by the Red Cross. English and French versions may be seen online at http://www.rac.ca/fieldorg/download.htm (RAC)

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WORLDBEAT: UK MILITARY TO TRY GPS JAMMING EXERCISE IN JULY

If you are driving in the U-K next summer and your G-P-S guidance system goes brain dead, it might be jammed and the jamming is legal. The United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense has informed telecommunications regulator Ofcom that between July 6th and 16th, that it will be conducting a Global Positioning System jamming exercise.

The July tests will be for limited periods between 11.00 and 15.00 U-T-C. The location for the exercise is to sea westwards from N58 deg. 57.4' W003 deg. 13.9' which is about 60 nautical miles west of Kirkwall. Ofcom warns that it cannot be held responsible that any loss of service is due to the military G-P-S jamming exercises.

The United Kingdom's Ministry of Defense conducts occasional tests on military systems which may result in some loss of service to civilian users of the Global Positioning System. This includes such equipment as in-car navigation devices and other networks which rely on GPS signals. (GB2RS)

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DX

In D-X, members of the Texas DX Society are now active as C91TX from Bilene, Mozambique until April 5th. Operations are on 160 to 10 meters with 3 active stations, one station each for CW, SSB, and the Digital modes. For updates, visit www dot tdxs dot net slash c91 dot html on the World Wide Web.

The team bringing Mellish on the air finally were able to land there on March 27th. They came on the air on March 28th as VK9GMW and hope to be there through April 10th but this can change. More is on-line at www.vk9gmw.com

E51COF is currently on the air from Rarotonga in the South Cook Islands. He plans to operate SSB on 10, 15, 20, 40, 80 and maybe 17

meters. QSL via K8NA.

Members of Turkey's Special Wireless Activity Team will be active as TC57A to remember that nations 57th Regiment Martyrs. Operation is slated from April 22nd to the 27th on the HF bands. QSL as directed on the air.

Lastly, N5FF is in Damascus, Syria, and should be active as YK1BA from through April 10th. The purpose of the trip is not a DXpedition, so his operating will be spotty. QSL via N5FF

(Above from various DX sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE 45 AT AGE 60

And finally this week, the 45 RPM record -- yes we said record -- is now 60 years old. While it has faded from the pop music distribution scene it is still very popular with some music collectors and vinyl record buffs. Rebecca Bruce has the rest of the story:

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For those like this reporter who was born after the introduction of the digital compact disc and portable music player, the 45 R-P-M record with its small size and large center hole was a kind of a trip back in time. We saw them as kids and we heard our parents playing them on their record players. But by the time we grew up the only place you could find them was at the local swap meet or on eBay.

Up until the introduction of the C-D the 45 rpm record was the mainstay of delivering popular music to an entertainment hungry world. Only 7 inches in diameter, the disc spun at 45 revolutions per minute and was designed to hold two songs. One on each side of the disc.

I'm told that the best part of the 45 was its extreme light weight and durability. Unlike the older 78 R-P-M discs which would shatter if dropped, a 45 might get a scratch but could continue to be played with the added annoyance of some clicks and pops from the scratch. This made it an ideal and inexpensive format of that era for providing recorded music to teens and pre-teens of the mid to late 20th century. That's because most 45's sold for less than a dollar.

As a historic note, the first 45 rpm disc was "Texarkana Baby" recorded by country singer Eddy Arnold. It was released by RCA on March 31, 1949.

But the entertainer who likely benefited most from the 45 was likely the man they called the "King of Rock and Roll," Elvis Presley. He sold millions of records during his career and made the 45 R-P-M record a household word among teens.

So a happy birthday to the good old 45. I have the feeling that mom and dad kind of miss having you around.

Sitting here with my iPod and my three kids who will likely only see a 45 RPM record in a museum, I'm Rebecca Bruce reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Now, we are in the 21st century. The 45 had given way first to the C-D and more recently to direct download to music players like Rebecca's iPod. None the less, the 45 RPM record holds an important place in bringing music into the lives of oh so many. (RW)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also be sure to mark April 18th as this year World Amateur Radio Day. World Amateur Radio Day will focus on the hobby as it empowers people and supports communities by providing emergency communication as well as public service oriented interaction for community and other special events.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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96. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No. 13 (Friday, April 3, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-03 22:29:40 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090403215947.E028D31648@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2106
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 13
April 3, 2009
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IN THIS EDITION:

* ARRL Comments on FCC's Proposed Establishment of Rural Broadband
Plan
* New Videos Promoting Field Day, Amateur Radio Technology, Available
from ARRL
* Hams Still on Alert as Red River Flood Danger Lessens
* FCC Denies New York Ham's Request for PRB-1 Ruling
* German AMSAT Team Transmits, Receives Signals from Venus
* Australian, British RTTY Contests to Merge
* ARRL Releases 2009-2010 Repeater Directory
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
Byron Black, W4SSY, Wins March QST Cover Plaque Award
2009 National Hurricane Conference Has Amateur Radio Focus
ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

NOTE: There will be no ARRL Audio News April 3 or April 10. The ARRL
Letter will be distributed one day early on Thursday, April 9, as ARRL
HQ is closed Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL COMMENTS ON FCC'S PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF RURAL BROADBAND
PLAN

On March 10, 2009, the FCC invited comments via a Public Notice
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-561A1.pdf>
concerning the establishment of a comprehensive rural broadband strategy
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as part of the Department of Agriculture's Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, commonly known as the 2008 Farm Bill. Per the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), Congress required the FCC to develop a "comprehensive national broadband plan." According to the FCC, they, Congress, and the Secretary of Agriculture "have repeatedly recognized the importance of ensuring access to advanced telecommunications and information services to all Americans, with a special focus on rural and hard-to-serve areas." The proceeding provided an opportunity for the ARRL to express its concerns about broadband over power lines (BPL) <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/> that the FCC has yet to satisfactorily address.

In the comments submitted by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/09-29_Rural_Broadband_Comments_03_2009.pdf>, the ARRL reaffirms its support of broadband opportunities in rural areas. "ARRL is in agreement that broadband is critical to the health of agricultural and other businesses, and to the educational interests of Americans who live in rural areas," Imlay stated. Imlay commended the FCC in looking for broadband solutions on both the short and long term, as well as identifying how Federal programs "might overcome obstacles that currently impede rural broadband development."

Imlay pointed out that while the FCC and various power utilities have touted BPL as a promising means of providing rural broadband service, the ARRL contends that there are "prohibitive limitations (notable among these being the large number, and the cost, of repeaters and couplers required on overhead, medium voltage power lines for what amounts to a limited number of subscribers' homes in rural areas)."

The ARRL maintains that before BPL could ever be considered as a long-term source of broadband in rural America, the FCC must adopt rules that provide against BPL interference to the licensed radio services. Imlay said that studies have pointed out that BPL systems cause interference to licensed radio services in "certain configurations," such as international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, disaster relief, military and the Amateur Radio Service. "Of particular concern in rural areas is that low-band VHF radio systems are still common among state police, volunteer fire departments and other 'First Responder' public safety agencies," Imlay told the Commission, adding, "BPL systems using this frequency range can and would, without additional rules, likely block communications between dispatch centers and emergency response vehicles."

Imlay said that Amateur Radio is a "continuous, intensive user of the high-frequency bands in residential areas," and as such, "is arguably the most pervasively affected" by deployment of BPL in rural areas. "Amateur mobile operation is a particularly notable victim of BPL interference, since medium-voltage power lines run parallel to roadways." The Commission's BPL rules "include no effective protection."

Imlay reminded the Commission that the ARRL, as well as broadcast industry representatives, challenged the adequacy of the FCC's BPL

interference rules: "On appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, the Court remanded the ET Docket 04-37 proceeding to the Commission <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/?nc=1> with some very specific instructions, including reconsideration of assumptions relating to interference mitigation and disclosure of studies that had previously only been released in redacted form." Imlay pointed out that almost a year after the Court's decision, the Commission has done "literally nothing" to comply with the mandated instructions <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/04/10685/>.

In the six years that the BPL rules have been on the Commission's docket, Imlay said that there has been "continuous and extensive debate about the interference potential of BPL." This, he told the FCC, has created "some uncertainty" amongst the various utilities and municipalities that have been eyeing BPL as a broadband delivery mechanism, with the Commission's inaction since the Court's decision contributing to the uncertainty and "creating a dampening effect on the marketplace's interest in BPL." Before the FCC can implement a BPL policy for rural America, Imlay said that this "regulatory uncertainty" would need to be resolved.

The cost of implementing interference resolution must be considered by any rural broadband provider, Imlay said. While there is nothing in the FCC rules concerning this, Imlay reminded the Commission that the ARRL, "some eight months ago, offered a plan to the Commission's Office of Engineering and Technology in this regard <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8341>. The revised regulation suggested by ARRL would be sufficient to reduce the potential interference from BPL to the point that it would be practical to address such instances on a case-by-case basis. Compliance is achievable with present BPL technology without significant limitation on BPL deployment, rural or otherwise. However, the absence of such rules is an obstacle to any consideration of BPL as a rural broadband mechanism and makes an evaluation of interference mitigation difficult or impossible." The deployment of a BPL system with a high potential for interference would require expensive mitigation afterwards, whereas if the potential is reduced to an acceptable level at the time of deployment, the need for mitigation -- and therefore the cost -- will be greatly reduced.

Imlay told the FCC that more than four years ago, the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) <http://www.usda.gov/rus/> recognized "the need and willingness to utilize agency resources to remove interference concerns as an obstacle to rural broadband rollout (at least via BPL)." In a January 2005 letter from then-RUS Administrator Hilda Gay Legg to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, regarding the RUS's Community Connect Grant Program <http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/commconnect.htm>, the RUS acknowledged that the cost of interference mitigation from BPL systems was a "significant" issue, and told the ARRL that "whenever a loan or grant application proposes broadband service delivery via BPL, the RUS will

'consider the cost of interference mitigation in [its] financial analysis.'" On March 20, current FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein was nominated by President Barack Obama <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1> to become the next Administrator of the RUS.

Imlay told the Commission that "[i]f the means by which a grantee would comply with the Commission requirements for interference avoidance are not clear (which as of now they are not), it is unlikely that any applicant for a grant for broadband service using BPL could address the RUS's concern about interference." Therefore, Imlay said that it is necessary for the FCC to address the BPL interference issues on remand from the Court of Appeals "in order to remove this additional obstacle to an assessment of rural broadband opportunities via BPL."

The ARRL is "constrained" to note that the FCC has, over the past six years, "acted not as a dispassionate technical agency in the evaluation of certain broadband mechanisms, including BPL," Imlay noted, "instead acting as a self described 'cheerleader' for certain technologies, also including BPL." By these actions, Imlay said that the Commission "has ignored technical evidence that is contrary to its predisposition," and urged the FCC that "those same mistakes" not be repeated here.

Imlay reminded the Commission that President Barack Obama, on his inauguration day earlier this year, placed a series of goals on the White House Web site. "Among these," Imlay said, "was the following, obviously laudable goal: 'Restore Scientific Integrity to the White House: Restore the basic principle that government decisions should be based on the best-available, scientifically valid evidence and not on ideological predispositions.' The Commission has the opportunity to implement this goal in this Docket proceeding."

Saying that rural broadband opportunities should be "evaluated in terms of the scientific realities of the technologies on the table, and not on the basis of what the Commission wants to believe about them," the ARRL asked the FCC to fulfill "without further delay the obligations placed upon it by the United States Court of Appeals in ET Docket 04-37, and adopt such revised and additional rules for BPL so as to eliminate the extant interference potential of the technology." With the regulatory uncertainty and unresolved interference issues that continue to surround BPL, the resolution of ET Docket 04-37 is a "prerequisite for the development" of a plan for a complete evaluation of rural broadband opportunities and the development of a rural broadband plan.

==> NEW VIDEOS PROMOTING FIELD DAY, AMATEUR RADIO TECHNOLOGY, AVAILABLE FROM ARRL

Two new video Public Service Announcements (PSAs) -- one promoting ARRL Field Day and another showing the technical side of Amateur Radio -- are now available from the ARRL Web site. "These videos are great for PIOs <http://www.arrl.org/pio>, clubs and hams in general to use in promoting the fun side of Amateur Radio," said ARRL Media and Public Relations

Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP.

"The Field Day PSA is meant to be posted on Web sites, added to e-mails and shared via the Internet," Pitts explained. "While not broadcast quality resolution, it was intentionally made small enough to go through almost all e-mail systems and able to be seen on almost every computer. The PSA spotlighting Amateur Radio technology is meant for broadcast and cable TV; it is more general than the Field Day video and media outlets can use it all year long. This video complements the WeDoThat-Radio campaign <http://www.wedothat-radio.org/> and the Technology Pillar, one of the ARRL's five pillars."

Pitts said that the Field Day video is the League's first experiment in "viral" video. "We've seen how a good video can spread quickly via the Web and reach people. So we created a special Field Day Internet video for this year. Let's see what happens." Amateurs can download the video from the Field Day Web page <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> and then send it to friends, e-mail lists, Web sites -- just about anywhere!
"Please do not modify it or change the ending!" Pitts requests. "Since the files can go all over the country -- and world -- the ending needs to be able to direct anyone, anywhere to the closest Field Day site near them. Just be sure your local group is listed on the ARRL Field Day Locator <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> and they will find you." Since the technology PSA is targeted for commercial TV uses, it is a high resolution, 43 meg, MOV type file; it can be downloaded from the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/pio/videos/ARRL30secPSA2009.mov>. Because this version is meant for professional use, it has a formal 60 second lead-in followed by the 30 second PSA. A very low resolution preview version (not meant for distribution) is also available <http://www.arrl.org/pio/videos/LowRes2009.wmv>.

To get a copy of the technology video on a disc, please send Pitts an e-mail <mailto:apitts@arrl.org>, letting him know which TV stations or cable systems will be showing the video, and which format is needed.

Special thanks go to the volunteers of the national ARRL PR Committee who took the concept and helped bring it to reality. For the Field Day video, Kevin Pauley, KB9WVI, did the excellent video editing (right down to synchronizing shots with the music); Don Carlson, KQ6FM, did the voiceover work. Staff creativity came from Pitts -- who produced and created the video -- and ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, who did the music. The Delta DX Association in Louisiana, W5RU, with Bob McBride, AE5RN, and Albert DuPont, W5AFD, were a major help, providing action video clips and permissions from their last Field Day. The technology video was also designed by Pitts with extensive volunteer help. Special thanks go to Matt Aaron, KG4WXX, who guided the extensive video editing and to Don Carlson, KQ6FM, who did the audio work.

==> HAMS STILL ON ALERT AS RED RIVER FLOOD DANGER LESSENS

Since March 22, a group of ham radio volunteers has been providing communications during the Red River flood emergency that continues to threaten Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota and surrounding areas. Hams from those cities, as well as surrounding areas, have been manning hospitals, Emergency Operations Centers and Salvation Army shelters.

Mark Johnson, KC0SHM, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs (RRRA), reports that operations have wound down as water levels continue to recede. The ham volunteers remain on alert, however, as flooding still threatens the area. As of April 3, the Red River was at 35.4 feet in Fargo. Flood stage is 18 feet.

==> FCC DENIES NEW YORK HAM'S REQUEST FOR PRB-1 RULING

On March 27, the FCC notified Thomas Morrison, AB2PP, of Yonkers, New York, that it was denying his petition concerning an Amateur Radio antenna support structure Morrison had installed at his home <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-680A1.pdf>. In his December 2008, petition, Morrison requested the Commission rule that the City of Yonkers did not provide "reasonable accommodation" in its building permit requirements per PRB-1 with regard to the installation of the support structure <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf>.

This is the second time Morrison has sought assistance from the FCC in this matter. In 2006, he filed a request with the Commission asking for a declaratory ruling regarding the tower; the FCC denied his request in January 2007. "In that letter [denying your request]," the FCC reminded Morrison in its 2009 letter, "we explained that the Commission's PRB-1 decision requires that local regulation of Amateur Radio facilities must be the minimum practicable to accomplish the local authority's legitimate purpose, but permits the local authority to determine in the first instance what constitutes a 'reasonable accommodation' based on the its [sic] legitimate purposes, policies and concerns."

The Commission's 2007 letter also noted that the FCC does not have the resources to review all state and local laws that affect Amateur Radio operations and that local tribunals have authority to review local zoning decisions.

In his 2008 letter, Morrison told the Commission that since the FCC failed to act in his favor in his earlier petition, the Yonkers City Planning Board denied his request for a special use permit for his antenna support structure. The City of Yonkers has also indicted him for installing a tower without a building permit, a misdemeanor. Morrison also told the FCC that he has filed litigation in US District Court, requesting that it delay his criminal trial.

"We conclude that these intervening events do not affect our conclusion that, under the Commission's PRB-1 decision, you have not presented an appropriate matter for Commission involvement," the FCC told Morrison. "Because your dispute with the City fundamentally involves whether its

building code complies with PRB-1, and PRB-1 recognizes that local tribunals have the authority to handle appeals of local decisions regarding antenna structures, we believe that the matter you inquire about is in the appropriate forum. We therefore decline to act upon your petition."

==> GERMAN AMSAT TEAM TRANSMITS, RECEIVES SIGNALS FROM VENUS

On March 25, a group from AMSAT-DL bounced radio signals off the surface of Venus, marking the first time Amateur Radio operators have bounced radio signals off another planet <http://www.amsat-dl.org/pic/gallery2/main.php?g2_view=core.DownloadItem&g2_itemId=7561>. According to AMSAT-DL President Peter Guelzow, DB2OS, the Earth-Venus-Earth (EVE) transmission is another step in preparing for a mission to Mars. According to an AMSAT-DL press release, the team's transmitter was generating about 6 kW CW on 2.4 GHz.

Guelzow said that signals were sent from a ground control station at the IUZ Sternwarte observatory in Bochum: "After traveling almost 100 million kilometers and a round trip delay of about 5 minutes, they were clearly received as echoes from the surface of Venus. This was the first German success to receive echoes of other planets. In addition, this is the farthest distance crossed by radio amateurs, over 100 times further than echoes from the moon (EME reflections)."

The EVE experiment was repeated on March 26 for several hours with "good echoes" from Venus, Guelzow said. "Morse code was used to transmit the well-known 'HI' signature known from the AMSAT OSCAR satellites."

For receiving the EVE reflections, Guelzow said that the team used a fast Fourier transform (FFT) analysis with an integration time of 5 minutes. "After integrating for 2 minutes only, the reflected signals were clearly visible in the display," he said. "Despite the bad weather, signals from Venus could be detected from 1038 UTC on until the planet reached the local horizon."

Guelzow explained that with the EVE reflections, the high power amplifier "has therefore passed this crucial test as a final key component for the planned P5-A Mars mission. By receiving generated echoes from Venus, the ground and command station for the Mars probe has been cleared for operational use and the AMSAT-DL team is now gearing up for building the P5-A space probe. AMSAT-DL wants to show that low-budget interplanetary exploration is possible with its approach."

Development, design and construction of this first German Mars mission have been achieved by AMSAT-DL and its partner organizations, Guelzow explained. "Already a third of the total project costs were performed. More work shall follow during the mission. AMSAT-DL would like to demonstrate that their approaches to low-cost space missions are feasible." -- Information provided by AMSAT-DL

==> AUSTRALIAN, BRITISH RTTY CONTESTS TO MERGE

John Barber, GW4SKA, of the British Amateur Radio Teledata Group (BARTG) <http://www.bartg.org.uk/index.htm>, announced that 2009 will be the last running of the Australian National Amateur Radio Teleprinter Society (ANARTS) RTTY Contest <http://www.anarts.com.au/index.htm>. Citing the failing health of ANARTS Secretary and Contest Manager Pat Leeper, VK2JPA, Barber said that BARTG, with help toward expenses from ANARTS, will manage June's 2009 ANARTS Contest.

"BARTG have had close links with ANARTS over the years," Barber said, "and we felt that we should help in some way. After discussions between Pat and the BARTG committee, we have decided on a course of action."

Barber said that he briefly considered moving the BARTG HF Contest from the third weekend in March to the second weekend in June, the date ANARTS held their RTTY contest, but based on input from the RTTY contest community, decided against the move. "The general opinion seems to be that moving to a June date would be a bad idea, both for propagation and because there are better things to do in June," he said. "The contest calendar is very crowded and there are few options open if we were to consider a new date at the beginning or end of the year." Saying that the Russian DX Contest is also the third weekend in March, Barber said that "The RDXC contesters will just have to work round us and be tolerant if space gets tight, as we are to them."

Barber said that Leeper had "made every effort to find someone else in Australia to take over the contest, but with no success. My thanks go to Pat for her cooperation and hard work in running the previous contests."

Calling the BARTG HF Contest "a well liked and supported contest," Barber said that the March 2009 BARTG HF Contest attracted "around 2500 participants. I have no wish to change the character by messing around with the rules, so they will remain the same for next year." The ANARTS rules <http://www.anarts.com.au/rules2009.htm> will not change, but logs must be submitted to BARTG <mailto:anarts@bartg.org.uk>. The rules are currently on the ANARTS Web site, but he said they will be posted to the BARTG Web site soon.

BARTG runs two contests each year <http://www.bartg.org.uk/contests.htm>. The BARTG Sprint Contest is in January and the BARTG HF Contest is in March.

==> ARRL RELEASES 2009-2010 REPEATER DIRECTORY

With more than 20,000 listings for VHF/UHF repeaters across the US and Canada, "The ARRL Repeater Directory 2009-2010" is a must have. Once again, the ARRL is offering two sizes of the "Repeater Directory" --pocket size <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1288> and desktop <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1318>.

The pocket-sized Repeater Directory boasts a larger font size, making for easier reading. Both editions feature handy indexing tabs on the cover, easier to read listings and a "Key to Repeater Notes" located right up front in the Directory. Along with these new features, both editions have the features you know and enjoy from prior years: Repeater

operating practices, repeater lingo and hints for newly licensed hams; Frequency Coordinator contact information; listings for D-STAR and APCO 25 repeaters; a guide to using CTCSS tones and Digital Coded Squelch (DCS); VHF/UHF band plans and a 2 meter channel-spacing map; IRLP (Internet linked) nodes; tips for handling interference; listings for IRLP, WIRES-II and EchoLink (Internet linked) nodes; emergency message handling procedures, and a transceiver memory log.

Order your copy of "The ARRL Repeater Directory 2009-2010" today at the ARRL Online Store <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=What%27s%20New>.

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The warm Sun thaws the benumbed Earth" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Our Sun is in the news again, unfortunately not due to any hoped-for activity, but for the eerie quiet instead. The Sun is surprisingly calm by several measurements, including the large number of spotless days, with an average 10.7 cm solar flux and low solar wind pressure. Right now there are no sunspots, but the 10.7 cm solar flux is up a bit lately. The latest prediction has the usual quiet planetary A index at 8 for April 3-4, then back to 5, then 15 and 10 for April 9-10. Predicted solar flux is 71 for April 3-9, then back to 70 for April 10-22 then to 72 for April 23 and into May. Sunspot numbers for March 26-April 1 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.1, 71.6, 70.6, 70.9, 70.9, 71.2 and 70.8 with a mean of 70.7. The estimated planetary A indices were 7, 4, 4, 5, 4, 4 and 4 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 2, 2, 4, 3, 2 and 3 with a mean of 3.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Thomas Carew's "The Spring" <http://www.poetry.com/greatestpoems/poem.asp?id=508>.

==> IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is April 3. On April 4-5, check out the Montana QSO Party, the Missouri QSO Party, the QCWA Spring QSO Party, the ARCI Spring QSO Party, the SP DX Contest and the EA RTTY Contest. The 144 MHz Spring Sprint is April 6 (local time). Next week is the NCCC Sprint Ladder on April 10 and the PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest on April 11. On April 11-12, look for the Georgia QSO Party, the Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest and the JIDX CW Contest. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the UBA Spring Contest (SSB) are April 12. The Low Power Spring Sprint is April 13. The 222 MHz Spring Sprint is April 14 (local time) and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is April 15. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL

Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 5, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 17, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 2; Antenna Modeling, and Radio Frequency Propagation.

Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Byron Black, W4SSY, Wins March QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for March is Byron Black, W4SSY, for his article "The W4SSY Spudgun." Congratulations, Byron! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the April issue by Thursday, April 30.

* 2009 National Hurricane Conference Has Amateur Radio Focus: The 31st Annual National Hurricane Conference <http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/> will take place April 6-10 in Austin, Texas. This annual event brings together many disciplines in the Emergency Management field to address tropical events that impact the United States. According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, the conference will feature several Amateur Radio presentations catering to Amateur Radio operators, Emergency Management and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) officials. "This will be Amateur Radio's most significant presence at a National Hurricane Conference," Dura said. On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 7, Dura said an Amateur Radio Training Workshop will be offered free of charge to Amateur Radio operators, Emergency Management and NGO staff and volunteers attending the Conference. "This has been a yearly tradition at the conference," he said. "In addition, on Wednesday morning, April 8, an Amateur Radio

Workshop on Situational Awareness and Disaster Intelligence, as well as an Amateur Radio 'Rap Session,' will be held. For the Wednesday presentation, the conference registration fee is required."

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Good Friday on Friday, April 10. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. "The ARRL Letter" will be posted a day early on Thursday, April 9; there will be no "ARRL Audio News" on April 3 or April 10. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, April 13 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all

automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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97. What are these carriers in CW portion of 20M?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-08 17:28:02 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9BE7B1A422093VeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209>
Source record: 2107

I was off the air for about 3 months during a basement remodel and when I got back on the air a few weeks ago I noticed a handful of constant carriers in the CW portion of 20M. Since I'd relocated two PCs at the same time, I was afraid that I'd introduced some sort of local QRM, but I still hear them after shutting down both PCs and all peripherals.

They drop greatly in strength when I switch to my 40M dipole and disappear when I switch out the antenna altogether.

As near as I can measure, they're at 14001.690, 14029.400, 14029.870, 14030.540 and 14032.230.

The carriers at 01.690 and 32.230 are keyed seemingly randomly, and I sometimes hear weak USB on 01.690.

Anybody have an idea of what I'm hearing?

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

98. Re: What are these carriers in CW portion of 20M?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-08 18:01:11 UTC
From: Fabian Kurz <usenet@fkurz.net>
Message-ID: <74472rF112ta2U1@mid.dfncis.de>
Source record: 2108

Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com> wrote:
> As near as I can measure, they're at 14001.690, 14029.400, 14029.870,
> 14030.540 and 14032.230.

Birdies around 14030kHz often originate from Ethernet devices. I
can hear three different carriers around that frequency here (all
at slightly different beats), one disappeared when I switched the
other computer here off. If your shack is connected to the
outside world with an Ethernet cable, that'd be the first thing
I'd check.

73,
--
Fabian Kurz, DJ1YFK * Munich, Germany * http://fkurz.net/

99. Re: What are these carriers in CW portion of 20M?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-08 18:02:18 UTC
From: mikea <mikea@mikea.ath.cx>
Message-ID: <ae5va6-j35.ln1@mikea.ath.cx>
Source record: 2109

Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com> wrote in <Xns9BE7B1A422093VeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209>:
> I was off the air for about 3 months during a basement remodel and when
> I got back on the air a few weeks ago I noticed a handful of constant
> carriers in the CW portion of 20M. Since I'd relocated two PCs at the
> same time, I was afraid that I'd introduced some sort of local QRM, but
> I still hear them after shutting down both PCs and all peripherals.
>
> They drop greatly in strength when I switch to my 40M dipole and
> disappear when I switch out the antenna altogether.
>
> As near as I can measure, they're at 14001.690, 14029.400, 14029.870,
> 14030.540 and 14032.230.
>
> The carriers at 01.690 and 32.230 are keyed seemingly randomly, and I
> sometimes hear weak USB on 01.690.
>
> Anybody have an idea of what I'm hearing?

Interesting.

I can't help you much with those, I fear, but wonder if you've tried powering the whole house off and running the rig off battery. If doing that causes the carriers to disappear, they're being generated in your house somehow, and the next step is to power up the house breaker-by-breaker, device-by-device, until the carrier(s) come back, at which point you know the source(s) and can try some RF isolation on them.

If they're being generated _outside_ your house, that makes things rather more interesting. It could be a partially-rectifying joint in power lines, or in your phone or TV cable(s), or maybe even in a chain-link fence. I've got something of that sort doing really nasty things with a very nearby MW broadcast station, and have been tracking it a bit at a time for months.

During ice storms a year ago, I found that some of the wall-warts in the living room were putting out a lot of hash (nasty little switchers with nowhere near enough RF suppression). Other folks have had similar experiences with light dimmers, fluorescent ballasts, and whatnot.

Good luck and very 73, de

--
Mike Andrews, W5EGO
mikea@mikea.ath.cx
Tired old sysadmin

100. Re: What are these carriers in CW portion of 20M?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-08 18:26:17 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9BE788A8C1E9EVeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209>
Source record: 2110

In news:74472rF112ta2U1@mid.dfncis.de Fabian Kurz <usenet@fkurz.net>
wrote:

> Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com> wrote:
>> As near as I can measure, they're at 14001.690, 14029.400, 14029.870,
>> 14030.540 and 14032.230.
>
> Birdies around 14030kHz often originate from Ethernet devices. I
> can hear three different carriers around that frequency here (all
> at slightly different beats), one disappeared when I switched the
> other computer here off. If your shack is connected to the
> outside world with an Ethernet cable, that'd be the first thing
> I'd check.

That was it.

As soon as I read the first line of your post, I realized that the
4-port switch was still powered up during my testing. It's not plugged
into either power strip since both PCs (and the rig) are connected to
it.

As soon as I unplugged it, all the birdies, including the one at
14001.69, went away.

Now that I know where they come from, I'll have to figure out what to do
about them.

--
Bert Hyman St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

101. testing in Muscatine, Iowa 4/12/09

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-09 04:30:57 UTC
From: n0loh <n0loh.4232b48@radiobanter.com>
Message-ID: <n0loh.4232b48@radiobanter.com>
Source record: 2111
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

>Date: Sunday, April 12 (Easter)
Time: 1:30 pm
Amateur Radio License Test

Basement meeting room
Public Safety Building
318 E. 5th St.
Muscatine, IA 52761

FCC License Exams for all classes.
Preregistration requested.

For more information, contact Jerry Schroder Jr., KC&#65533;WWV
Phone (563) 607-0793
E-mail KC&#65533;WWV@arrl.net

* Examinees must bring current FCC form 605 or obtain one on site.
* Examinees must present personal picture ID or two other forms of ID
(no exceptions).
* If licensed, bring original and photocopy of current FCC license and
/ or CSCEs.
* Exam fee is $15.00.

We will monitor the 146.910- Repeater to help with directions.
We hope to see you and your friends there.

--
n0loh

102. Re: testing in Muscatine, Iowa 4/12/09

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-09 14:06:49 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <2f6dnUxsp7zxnUPUnZ2dnUVZ_hRi4p2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2112
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

n0loh wrote:

> * Examinees must present personal picture ID or two other forms of ID
> (no exceptions).

IIRC, the team must keep copies of the ID documents, so I suggest you
ask applicants to bring copies with them.

73,

W1AC
P.S. BTW, your email reply address is bouncing.

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

103. Re: What are these carriers in CW portion of 20M?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-09 15:53:45 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9BE86ECD0CB13VeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209>
Source record: 2113

In news:Xns9BE788A8C1E9EVeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209 Bert Hyman
<bert@iphouse.com> wrote:

> Now that I know where they come from, I'll have to figure out what to
> do about them.

Geez... What DO I do about them?

A google search didn't turn up anything particularly useful, although I
didn't exhaust all combinations of search terms.

The signals are obviously radiated, since changing or removing the
receive antenna dramatically changes the strength.

Turning devices on and off and unplugging cables makes certain sets of
birdies come and go, but that might be a red herring since I'd bet that
the interfaces shut down on their own when the connectors are pulled.

Assuming that the signals are radiating from the cables and not the
devices, would ferrite chokes be of any use here?

They'd have to be the clamp-on variety, since all the cable runs have
large connectors on both ends.

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

104. Re: What are these carriers in CW portion of 20M?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-09 18:34:02 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <hhqDl.2609$6n.1856@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2114

"Bert Hyman" <bert@iphouse.com> wrote in message
news:Xns9BE86ECD0CB13VeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209...
> In news:Xns9BE788A8C1E9EVeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209 Bert Hyman
> <bert@iphouse.com> wrote:
>
> > Now that I know where they come from, I'll have to figure out what to
> > do about them.
>
> Geez... What DO I do about them?
>
You might try relocating the switch or swapping the power supply. I had trouble with a wall wort that only blew noise when it was loaded. Try double shielded coax in the shack. Try Cat 5E or Cat 6. Ethernet shouldn't radiate very far at all, and any attempts to filter it will thwart your bandwidth.

105. Re: testing in Muscatine, Iowa 4/12/09

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-09 18:36:29 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <grle31nbk1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2115
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:2f6dnUxsp7zxnUPUnZ2dnUVZ_hRi4p2d@speakeasy.net...
> n0loh wrote:
>
>> * Examinees must present personal picture ID or two other forms of ID
>> (no exceptions).
>
> IIRC, the team must keep copies of the ID documents, so I suggest you ask
> applicants to bring copies with them.
>
> 73,
>
> W1AC
> P.S. BTW, your email reply address is bouncing.
>
> --
> Bill Horne
>
> (Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)
>

According to my VE manual, the team does not need to have copies of the IDs,
we just need to see two pieces of ID. The only thing we need copies of are
the license fro those who are upgrading an existing license.

Dee, N8UZE

106. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 14 (Thursday, April 9, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-09 19:53:47 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090409192216.9CC7732021@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2116
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 14
April 9, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* Italian Hams Respond after Earthquake
* New ARRL Advanced Emergency Communications Course in the Works
* FCC Denies Michigan Ham's Request for Ruling
* Seattle Hosts Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Seminar
* FCC, Indianapolis Police Department Address Unlicensed Operations
* New Section Manager Appointed in South Dakota
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday

NOTE: There will be no ARRL Audio News on April 10 or April 24. The ARRL
Letter is distributed one day early this week, as ARRL HQ is closed
Friday, April 10 in observance of Good Friday.

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ITALIAN HAMS RESPOND AFTER EARTHQUAKE

An earthquake that registered between 5.8 and 6.3 magnitude struck the
town of L'Aquila -- the capital of Italy's Abruzzo region, about 65
miles northeast of Rome -- early on the morning of April 6. News reports
say the quake has killed more than 250 people, with at least 50,000 left
homeless. Cluster spots reported that two HF frequencies -- 7045 and
3640 kHz -- were being used for emergency communications. Local hams
also reported that various VHF frequencies were also being used.

According to IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg
Mossop, G0DUB, the 7045 kHz frequency is being used to link local rescue
and coordination centers with Protezione Civile in Rome. "Cell phone
```

capacity in the area is being increased," he said, "and a second wave of volunteers and workers are being prepared to go to the area to take over from the first responders." He asked that 7045 kHz be kept clear as the Net remains active and stated that "it is now more important [to keep the frequency clear now] that a formal Net seems to exist."

Alberto Barbera, IK1YLO, of Ponderano (near Milan), told the ARRL hams are operating in VHF and UHF locally "because the area involved is not that large. About 30 villages around L'Aquila are involved. Our Dipartimento Protezione Civile does not need additional help at this moment; perhaps it will be necessary in a second step, we will see."

Fabrizio Villanova, IK6GTF, of Pescara (about a 90 minute drive from L'Aquila), said that several hams from his town and from Chieti are providing communications support after the quake. "We are using Pescara's repeaters to maintain contacts with hams in L'Aquila and to coordinate the activity of Pescara/Chieti's hams," he told the ARRL. "We operate from an institutional building especially equipped for emergencies where, joined with the police, fire department, Red Cross and other public services, all committed to provide aid. Our national emergency service is working in a very good manner and all activities seem to proceed well."

Rino Odoardi, IZ6BMP, of Alanno Stazione (near Pescara), told the ARRL that he and other hams from the Pescara section of the Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) "are in L'Aquila, involved in Civil Defense activities with officials in L'Aquila. The earth is still shaking now -- I hope it will finish soon!" ARI <http://www.associazioneradioamatoritaliani.it> is Italy's IARU Member-Society <http://www.iaru.org>.

The death toll reached 260 people, including 16 children, after rescuers pulled more bodies from the rubble in the days after the earthquake. Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said in total 28,000 had lost their homes, with 17,000 now living in tents and the rest in free hotel rooms or staying with family. Aftershocks from Italy's worst quake in three decades lasted until April 8 in mountainous Abruzzo and were felt in Rome. According to Reuters News, Berlusconi vowed to build "a whole new town near L'Aquila."

==> NEW ARRL ADVANCED EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS COURSE IN THE WORKS

Over the past several months, ARRL staff have been reviewing the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications online course program <http://www.arrl.org/cep/> and have decided to combine two of the three Emergency Communications courses. According to ARRL Education Services Manager Debra Johnson, K1DMJ, the review included a critical examination of the course content, as well as methods of course delivery and interrelationships with government organizations. Johnson said that the decision was made to revise the Level 3 course to become a new Advanced Emergency Communications Course; this, she said, will replace both the current Level 2 and Level 3 courses. The new advanced course is set to

be released during the last quarter of 2009.

"Our aim is to develop professional level courses which are widely accepted by other organizations for the emergency communication component of Amateur Radio," she said. "We are investigating requirements that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently putting in place for approved courses, as well as other possibilities to develop emergency communications training that meets the emerging training needs surrounding emergency communications."

Students who have previously taken the Level 2 course will need to have the new advanced course to complete the current Amateur Radio Emergency Communications training program, Johnson explained. "Those who have completed the Level 1 course may progress directly to the advanced course when it is made available; this new course contains content formerly included in the former Level 2 and 3 courses." Johnson said that there are no current plans to change the Basic Level 1 course and that that course will continue to be offered in its current format.

With the combining of the Level 2 and 3 courses, Johnson said that anyone who had signed up for the Level 2 course set to begin April 17 may apply for a refund. Any scheduled field instruction of the Level 2 content, as well as Level 2 exam sessions, will also be suspended. "We will honor exam sessions that have been previously scheduled and award Level 2 certificates for any exams successfully completed up to May 31," she said.

"Our training program mandate is to provide the training that ham radio communicators need to be prepared to serve our communities in time of communications emergencies," Johnson explained. "This consolidation of program content will streamline the delivery of the training and apply volunteer and administrative support resources more effectively."

==> FCC DENIES MICHIGAN HAM'S REQUEST FOR RULING

In October 2007, Christopher Kaczmarek, KB8MLC, of Saginaw, Michigan, petitioned the FCC for a ruling regarding the installation of his Amateur Radio antenna. Kaczmarek told the FCC that he received a notice from the manager of his mobile home community stating the antennas were not allowed and asked for "a ruling from the Commission recognizing [his] right to an Amateur Radio antenna structure." On April 6, 2009, the FCC denied Kaczmarek's request for a ruling in his favor, based on the fact that PRB-1 protections do not extend to private homeowners' agreements
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-774A1.pdf>.

The Commission agreed with Kaczmarek that Section 97.15 of the Commission's Rules provides that "state and local regulation of antenna structures must not preclude amateur service communications, must reasonably accommodate such communications, and must constitute the minimum practicable regulation to achieve the state or local authority's legitimate purpose." In its letter to Kaczmarek, the FCC pointed out

that it has not, however, extended this policy to regulations promulgated by private parties.

Saying that it has considered this same question twice before, the FCC told Kaczmarek that it "chose not to preempt private land use regulations that restrict the installation of antennas and associated support structures used by Amateur Radio stations. As agreements between private parties are voluntarily established and freely entered into, the Commission is hesitant to interfere with them unless it is shown that private agreements will seriously disrupt the federal regulatory scheme."

==> SEATTLE HOSTS AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SEMINAR

More than 250 hams and emergency communications professionals enjoyed two days of focused programs and socializing at the 11th Annual Communications Academy in Seattle over the weekend of April 3-4 <http://www.commacademy.org/>. Held at South Seattle Community College in West Seattle, the conference drew attendees from across the country, mostly from the Pacific Northwest: Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. "The organizing committee, led by Marina Zuetell, N7LSL, is to be commended for putting together this useful annual event that continues to get better each year," said ARRL Contributing Editor and conference attendee H. Ward Silver, N0AX. "The beginner's track was created by Brian Daly, WB7OML, who unfortunately was unable to attend the conference due to some emergency situations at work. He recruited a great team of individuals to take on teaching the five different segments."

According to Silver, the conference is designed to interest everyone from brand new hams to seasoned EmComm veterans -- even emergency management and planning professionals. The breakfast keynote speakers were King County (Washington) Emergency Management Director Robin Friedman and ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD. Silver said the program was organized roughly along three tracks: Introduction to Amateur Radio for new hams; technical topics of interest to EmComm operation, and reports or training programs with EmComm themes or subjects.

"The track for brand-new hams was particularly well received," Silver said." Hosted by Scott Currie, NS7C, the programs began Saturday morning with 'Getting Your First Radio' and concluded Sunday with 'I Get It Now!Basic EmComm Equipment Needs.' This is no substitute for hands-on Elmering and training, but it certainly helps the ham with a brand new Technician license in need of some guidance."

Silver noted there were two technical programs on digital voice modes, such as D-STAR <http://www.dstarinfo.com/> and Project 25 <http://www.project25.org/>. "The presenters guided the audience through some of the intricacies of digital voice technology, comparing and contrasting the strengths and weaknesses of each," he said. "Microsoft's Groove communications technology

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/groove/HA101656331033.aspx> was explored as a tool for EmComm teams along with the use of D-RATS <http://www.d-rats.com/wiki/> -- a software package that makes use of D-STAR's low-speed data mode. An 'Ask the Doctor' question-and-answer session proved lively with questions ranging from 'how to' about antennas through the regulations regarding identification on digital voice modes. Staff from a local wireless store gave a standing-room-only presentation on installing mobile radios of all sorts in vehicles."

Communications Academy also offered planning and training programs, including such seminars on how to recognize haz-mat situations through "windshield surveys," ways to provide neighborhood-level communications, methods to develop situational awareness and NOAA weather. "The most difficult thing about the Communications Academy," Silver said, "is deciding what programs to give up in order to see the ones you want!" One course offered was on the Emergency Alert System. According to Zuetell, the system is not an Amateur Radio system but is "a Federal program used by emergency management officials that utilizes the public broadcast system to send targeted local alerts out to the public. The thrust of the presentation was to begin training Amateur Radio operators to program the equipment on a regular basis to keep it current and correct."

One of the highlights of the Communications Academy is an opportunity to see the local EmComm organizations demonstrate their mobile communications facilities. This year, nearly a dozen vehicles from small cargo vans to full-sized trucks were lined up outside. "There was plenty of time and excellent weather for attendees to tour the vehicles, with radios spanning the low HF bands through microwave," Silver said. "While not every club or team is fortunate enough to have its own mobile radio center, you can't help but come away with ideas from improving any EmComm station."

The building competition, wherein individuals submit examples of their ability to create EmComm-related radio packages, is a recent addition to the programs at Communications Academy. Silver said that this year's theme was to build a portable radio system that could operate from portable dc power and on as many EmComm-related bands and modes as possible. "Each entry was judged by both a panel of judges and by the attendees, with the winning score a combination of both," he said. "Like the communication vans, even if you didn't have such a package yourself, it was impossible not to walk away thinking of incorporating some of the ideas at home or in your mobile station."

Silver said that one of the highlights of the Saturday morning "Donuts and Danish" introductory remarks each year is learning how many millions of dollars worth of volunteer time and thousands of driven miles are contributed to the public good by ham radio operators, working together to prepare and be ready: "As the news reports show, it's never very long before the next opportunity to serve, no matter where you live!"

==> FCC, INDIANAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT ADDRESS UNLICENSED OPERATIONS

In response to an investigation by the FCC, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) <http://www.indy.gov/eGov/IMPD/Pages/home.aspx> has taken action to prevent further use of Amateur Radio frequencies by unlicensed officers. Any Amateur Radio equipment in the cruisers of unlicensed officers was removed by order of IMPD Chief of Police Michael T. Spears.

According to the FCC, some IMPD officers were using the radios to supplement their normal communications channels, including using amateur frequencies for tactical communications during drug surveillance. As part of its inquiry, the FCC reminded the IMPD of the large number of tactical channels available on a secondary basis to police departments from the public safety pool of frequency allocations.

"We are pleased that IMPD has put a stop to this unlicensed activity," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The investigation by the FCC, coupled with the expedient cooperation and correction of the problem by the IMPD, eliminates a situation that had raised serious concerns in the amateur community."

The FCC stated they would monitor the situation and follow-up appropriately if needed.

==> NEW SECTION MANAGER APPOINTED IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Scott Rausch, WA0VKC, of Piedmont, has been appointed Section Manager of the ARRL South Dakota Section starting April 7. He will serve the balance of the term of Rich Beebe, N0PV; Beebe passed away on March 16 <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8834>.

According to the Rules and Regulations of the Field Organization, when a vacancy in the office of Section Manager occurs between elections, the position is filled by appointment. Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, in consultation with Dakota Division Director Jay Bellows, K0QB, made the appointment effective Tuesday, April 7.

Rausch has served as a South Dakota Assistant Section Manager since 2003; he is also an Emergency Coordinator and an Official Emergency Station within the Field Organization. His term of appointment as Section Manager continues through March 31, 2010.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The golden weather greeting on the Sun-warm hills" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Recently, the 45 day forecast for daily solar flux and planetary A index has consistently predicted a solar flux at 70 for every day into the future. The last of these was on March 24. Then on March 25, the prediction was for the solar flux to be at 72 for March 28-31. That changed on March 26, showing solar flux at 72 on March 28-April 2. On March 27, the solar flux rose to 72 (actually 71.6) and the forecast was the same, but extended the 72 number through April 3. Solar flux has not reached 72 since then, but the March 28 forecast extends the reading of 72 through April 4. On March 29, it extends to April 5, and on March 30, to April 6. On March 31, it extends 72 until

April 9 -- three additional days -- but it also shows a new period with a flux of 72, April 23-May 6. April 1 is the same, but April 2 the flux is dropped to 71 for April 3-9. The April 3 prediction gives up on the slightly higher flux values for the near term, but still predicts 72 for April 23-May 6. The forecast remains the same until April 7, when the 72 flux for April 23-May 6 is shortened to April 23-29. So it appears that even these near term predictions for a very small increase in activity are continually revised downward. In the April 8 forecast, it shows the planetary A index for April 9-10 at 15 and 8, then dropping to 5 until April 21. Early on April 9, we are experiencing the effects of a solar wind stream, and planetary K index rose from 3 to 4 at 0300 UTC. Sunspot numbers for April 2-8 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 70.4, 70.1, 70.4, 68.8, 70.2 and 70 with a mean of 70.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 2, 4, 3, 2 and 5 with a mean of 3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 2, 0, 3, 2, 2 and 4 with a mean of 1.9. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions April 10, quiet April 11-14, quiet to unsettled April 15 and unsettled April 16. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Lucy Maud Montgomery's "Spring Song" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/spring-song-2/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week is the NCCC Sprint Ladder on April 10 and the PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavors Contest on April 11. On April 11-12, look for the Georgia QSO Party, the Yuri Gagarin International DX Contest and the JIDX CW Contest. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the UBA Spring Contest (SSB) are April 12. The Low Power Spring Sprint is April 13. The 222 MHz Spring Sprint is April 14 (local time) and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is April 15. Next week is the NCCC Sprint Ladder on April 17. Be sure to check out the Holyland DX Contest, the TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest, the ES Open HF Championship and the Feld Hell Sprint on April 18. The Michigan QSO Party, the Ontario QSO Party and the YU DX Contest are April 18-19. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is April 20. The SKCC Sprint and the 432 MHz Spring Sprint are April 22 (the 432 MHz Sprint is local time). All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 19, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 1, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Technician License Course; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics.. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Good Friday: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Good Friday on Friday, April 10. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. "The ARRL Letter" will be posted a day early on Thursday, April 9; there will be no "ARRL Audio News" on April 10 or April 24. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Monday, April 13 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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107. Re: testing in Muscatine, Iowa 4/12/09

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-10 00:18:40 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <nl0tt49b9d0s34ve4vb8jmttnegrc5i47k@4ax.com>
Source record: 2117
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

On Thu, 9 Apr 2009 14:36:29 EDT, "Dee Flint" <deeflint01@comcast.net>
wrote:

>
>"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
>news:2f6dnUxsp7zxnUPUnZ2dnUVZ_hRi4p2d@speakeasy.net...
>> n0loh wrote:
>>
>>> * Examinees must present personal picture ID or two other forms of ID
>>> (no exceptions).
>>
>> IIRC, the team must keep copies of the ID documents, so I suggest you
ask
>> applicants to bring copies with them.
>>
>> 73,
>>
>> W1AC
>> P.S. BTW, your email reply address is bouncing.
>>
>> --
>> Bill Horne
>>
>> (Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)
>>
>
>According to my VE manual, the team does not need to have copies of the
IDs,
>we just need to see two pieces of ID. The only thing we need copies of
are
>the license fro those who are upgrading an existing license.
>
>Dee, N8UZE

I looked all through my ARRL/VEC VE Manual
http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemanual/vemanual2008.pdf
and could find no reference to copies of ID documents. As Dee said,
ARRL/VEC requires only copies of ham licenses and CSCE's. Copies of
ham licenses are optional, if the candidate has lost his license
document; a timely printout from a ham license data server, such as
the FCC ULS or qrz.com, is sufficient proof.

I heard that in some states it is illegal to copy driver's licenses.
But I cannot confirm this.

Regarding the number of ID documents, the ARRL/VEC says we need one photo or two non-photo ID's. Here's the relevant section of the VE Manual:
The candidate must present a legal photo ID. This requirement is usually met with a driver's license, but it can be a passport or other legal identification card with the candidate's photo on it. When no photo ID is available, the candidate must present any two of the following:
ï¿½ Non-photo ID/driver's license (some states still have them);
ï¿½ Social Security Card;
ï¿½ Birth certificate (must have the appropriate seal);
ï¿½ Minor's work permit, school report card, school ID card or library card;
ï¿½ Utility bill, bank statement or other business correspondence that specifically names the person; or
ï¿½ Postmarked envelope addressed to the person at his or her current mailing address as it appears on the Form 605.

Dick, AC7EL

108. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1652 - April 10 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-10 07:59:46 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090410005530.01654d80@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2118
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1652 - April 10 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1652 with a release date of Friday, April 10th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A radio amateur in Florida is murdered. Police allege his neighbor wanted the hams money and no witnesses to identify identify him. Also, hams in Italy mobilize after an Earthquake hits 70 miles from Rome, another DX'er has his call pilfered and a ham radio April Fools joke that left very few laughing. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1652 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO CRIME: FLORIDA HAM MURDERED IN ROBERY OF HIS HOME

A Florida ham radio operator has been killed by his neighbor in what appears to be a murder and rob crime. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramovich, NT3V, is at our East coast bureau with more:

--

Authorities say less than a day before he was to celebrate his 57th birthday, Sterling Howell, KG4KIU, a widower who lived alone in a trailer home in Glenn St. Mary was brutally stabbed to death by his neighbor.

Investigators in Baker County at the northeastern tip of Florida say Howell was stabbed by 25-year-old Aron Fox the evening of April 1st.

Baker County Sheriff Joey Dobson told local media outlets Fox, who had lived next door with his mother, stabbed Howell several times in the chest and head area.

Dobson said it was believed the murder weapon was a knife or some other very sharp object, which hasn't been recovered.

The sheriff says there was evidence of a struggle and defensive wounds on the body, which was found outside the trailer home covered by a blanket.

He said the attack was so savage that one of Howell's thumbs was nearly taken off.

Investigators say the apparent motive for murder was money.

Dobson says Fox's mother overheard her son on a cell phone telling someone he was going to get Howell's banking information.

She told authorities she tried to call Howell to warn him just as her son left the house wearing gloves, but she couldn't reach Howell.

Investigators say Fox took Howell's pick-up truck and later abandoned it miles away.

They say his sister helped deputies catch Fox and allowed authorities to take him into custody without incident.

Authorities say the investigation is continuing and they are trying to find the person with whom Fox was engaged in that telephone conversation on the night of the murder.

North Florida hams say Howell was active on local repeaters and was a regular on the South Cars net on 7.251 Mhz.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

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Aron Fox is expected to be charged with capital murder. If convicted he would face the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole. (ARNewsline(tm) from various published reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS AID IN WAKE OF ITALY QUAKE

Amateur radio may be assisting in the aftermath of a powerful earthquake struck Italy early on Monday, April 6th. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

--

According to several sources and some DX cluster reports, 3.640 MHz and 3.6343.5 on 75 meters along with 7.045 MHz on 40 are being used as emergency net frequencies into and out of the disaster area. But Alberto Barbera, IK1YLO, who is the IARU National Emergency Communications Coordinator for Italy says he is not aware of any nets operating on behalf of the emergency communications groups on the High Frequency bands. He believes that any such operation is being done on an individual basis.

Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, is CQ Magazine's outgoing Public Service editor. He relays a report from IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB. Mossap says that Barbera is trying to coordinate various groups in light of the recent shutdown of Italy's national emergency communications organization. Bob says that IK1YKO has stated that practically all repeaters are still in operation, and that much of the region's cellphone infrastructure is intact as well.

The magnitude 6.2 quake hit Italy very early in the day killing at least 240 people, leaving thousands of people without homes and causing damage to many ancient buildings. The quake's epicenter was in a town of L'Aquila, about 70 miles from Rome. Numerous important churches and castles, some more than 700 years old, partially collapsed in the quake. Thousands of newer homes were leveled as well.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, Wa6ITF, reporting.

--

As we go to air rescue efforts are still reported as ongoing and hams world-wide are being asked to keep the frequencies of 3.640, 3.6343.5 and 7.045 MHz clear until further notice, even if its all unofficial at this time. (WA3PZO, CQ, other reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CANADIAN HAMS ACTIVATED IN RED RIVER EMERGENCY

Minnesota and North Dakota hams were not the only ones activated when the Red River crested above flood stage almost two weeks ago. Their counterparts north of the U-S and Canadian border went on high alert after serious ice jams on the river north of Winnipeg caused several communities to declare state of emergency.

East St. Paul, West St. Paul, St. Andrews and St. Clements were all being impacted by rising water. St. Clements Emergency Coordinator Dave Place VE4PN, reported that ARES was activated and its members staffed the local Emergency Operations Center. This continued even after reports advised that the ice jam had been broken using explosives and that the water level in hardest hit areas was dropping. The hams stayed at the EOC because those communities were still at risk.

And it was due to the rapidly changing conditions that Manitoba emergency management went ahead with its planned opening of the Provincial Emergency Operations Center. Meantime, Jeff Dovyak, VE4MBQ, the Capitol Region District Emergency Coordinator advised that Winnipeg ARES had activated and had provided staffing to the Manitoba Emergency Management radio room. Plans were also in place to provide emergency communications to town and cities on the rivers edge down to the Canadian border with the United States.

Meantime on this side of the border, Mark Johnson, KC0SHM, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs reports that although operations are winding down in the Fargo North Dakota and Moorehead Minnesota areas, the flood threat along the Red River remains for later in April. (RAC, ARRL, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: TEXAS TOWN WANTS HAM RADIO

Groves, Texas, says that ham radio operators are "invaluable" in keeping communication flowing after hurricanes. Because of this the Groves city manager D.E. Sosa says that he hopes to see better antennas on Groves water towers by the 2009 hurricane season.

According to the Port Arthur News, the Groves City Council members voted Monday, March 30th to research entering into a contract that would be of no cost the city. Chris Boone, WB5ITT, explained that the antennas could go on top of towers or clamp on to the climb ladder. Manager Sosa said he hopes that the process could be completed in about two months. (Port

Arthur News)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO HELPS IN TEXAS ROBBERY ARRESTS

Two men have been arrested in Texas and charged with robbery. This, as a result of the combined efforts of an observant victim, a ham radio operator and state and county law enforcement officers.

According to news reports the pair were charged with robbery after punching a woman in the mouth while in the process of burglarizing a campsite. The two made off with about $800 in fishing gear.

Figuring that the robbers might return to the lake in search of more victims authorities circvulted information on the suspects. An unnamed ham radio operator reportedly saw a suspicious vehicle and gave police its license number. A Game Warden found the vehicle parked in front of a residence near the lake and held its occupants until police arrived to take the suspects into custody. The two matched the description the victim had given. (Paris Texas News)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the East Cape Linked Repeater Network serving all of South Africa.

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: KE7KDP, KE5AIT AND RA3DT RETURN FROM THE ISS

Two members of the Expedition 18th International Space Station crew and a space tourist on his second trip to the I-S-S returned to Earth at 2:16 a.m. C-D-T on Wednesday, April 8th.

Landing safely in southern Kazakhstan were NASA astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, Russian cosmonaut Yury Lonchakov, RA3DT and spaceflight participant Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP. The three made the return trip on board a Russian built Soyuz spacecraft.

The Expedition 18 crew members undocked from the I-S-S at 10:55 p.m. April 7. The deorbit burn to slow the Soyuz and begin its descent toward Earth began at 1:24 a.m. on April 8th. The landing was moved to a more southerly site because of poor landing conditions at the original site.

Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, spent 11 days on the I-S-S under a commercial agreement with the Russian Federal Space Agency. During his mission he was on the air as much as possible using the ARISS station that's a permanent part of the I-S-S. Simonyi is also the only paying spaceflight participant to visit the station twice with this trip reportedly costing him close to

$35 million dollars.

Meantime, astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, now officially holds the record for the most ARISS contacts on a single expedition as well as the most for multiple missions. During his stay on board the International Space Station, Fincke logged a total of 426 space to earth school contacts by an expedition and 22 ARISS supported terrestrial contacts. Because of this, Expedition 18 has now set the record for the greatest number of ARISS contacts by any single ISS expedition. (NASA, otrhers)

**

ON THE NET: APRIL FOOLS JOKE CONVINCES SOME HAMS THAT AMATEUR RADIO WAS BANNED

An April Fools joke posted at the radiobanter dot com website has some of the more gullible hams around the nation believing that a California county has banned ham radio over health issues. Bruce Tennant, K6PZWW, has the details:

--

The article titled "Silenced Hams Mean Safer County" claims that San Luis Obispo county supervisors took -- and we quote -- "drastic and unprecedented by passing an ordinance that would prohibit amateur radio operators from operating their transmitting stations."

The article claims that the reason the measure was put in place to eliminate what officials said were health risks associated with transmitters located close to children. It also claims that the action is aimed at addressing a recent Stanford University study that showed a correlation between ham radios and attention deficit disorder and hyperactivity in children, as well as nagging reports of interference caused by radio hams operating their high-powered transmitters in residential neighborhoods.

It was easy to prove the joke status of the story thanks to a few searches using Google. First, there is no reporters by-line to the article. No information on who wrote it. Then the so-called Stanford University study cited is non existent. Third is the posters claim that the story originally appeared in the April 1st edition of the Los Angeles Press-Telegram newspaper, but that also is totally erroneous. Lastly, when you read the entire story it becomes apparent that it contains items that the average newspaper reporter likely has never heard of including mention of PRB One.

The problem is that once posted on the Internet these stories seem to take on a life of their own. Because of this, we expect to see this one raising the hair on the backs of some hams for a long time. This, even though all it was trying to say was "April Fools" albeit not everyone is finding it to be all that funny.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

And this just in. In response to numerous queries, including some from more than a few very irate hams, Cherie Aispuro, the San Luis Obispo County Legislative Assistant for District 2 has sent out the following statement.

Quote: "I want to tell you that the Board of Supervisors of San Luis Obispo have not and do not have anything scheduled to adopt an ordinance that would ban or prohibit amateur radio operators." -- end quote.

The item has now been removed from the radiobanter site but it's still making the rounds on several other sites and blogs including QRZ.com. See http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t9547 (Tnx WA6ILQ)

**

ENFORCEMENT NEEDED: ANOTHER PILFERED CALL

Another case of a stolen callsign. Over the last few weeks Charles Wilmott, M0OXO, of Yorsshire in the U-K has received reports that his short contest call of M0X has been used by an unknown operator including in contests.

Recently, the M0X call was been used along with a regional designator for the Island of Guernsey. And as a result Wilmott has received several requests for QSL cards that he's not about to respond to. This is because he has never operated from Guernsey; at least not yet. (Southgate)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: BUTTER, EGGS AND HAM (RADIO)

Radio amateurs in Northern California will be taking part I the upcoming City of Petalum's Butter And Egg Day Parade on April 25th. According to a note from KA6OPN, special event station K6P will be on the air to commemorate this years event. More can be found on Page 88 of the April edition of QST Magazine or on-line at www.repairguy.net/acs/index.html) (KA6OPN)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: EMCOMM EAST 2009 SCHEDULED

You have heard a lot lately about the Emcommwest ham radio convention in Reno Nevada. Now comes word that EmComm East will be held on October 3, 2009, in Rochester, New York. Presentations on the agenda so far include such topics as managing large events, remote operations, N-V-I-S Emergency communications and much more. For more information, visit the shows website at www.emcommeast.org or drop an e-mail to info (at) emcommeast (dot) org (WY7Q)

**

HAM RAPPENINGS: GERMANY'S HAM RADIO SHOW GETS DISCOUT FLIGHTS

If you live in London England or are going through London on your way to the 2009 Ham Radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany, have we found a deal for you. The Southgate News repots that European budget air carrier Ryanair will be providing flights between London and Friedrichshafen just 10 United Kingdom Pounds each way. 10 Pounds is about $15 in U-S dollars.

The trip to Friedrichshafen departs London Stanstead Airport on June 25th at 12:15 in the afternoon with a 14:50 aerival in Germany. The return flight leaves Friedrichshafen on Junre 27th at 16:05 and arrives back in London at 16:45. All times are local. That price is hand luggage only and assumes you don't want travel insurance.

So why this deep discount? While the airline has not given a reason but we suspect that its economy related. We can tell you that Ham Radio in Friedrichshafen is one of the worlds largest amateur radio exhibitions and the largest on the European continent. This year it takes place June 26th to the 28th with 17,000 or more visitors expected. With Ryanair flies Boeing 737-800 series aircraft and that means the airline will be transporting about 140 hams to or from this show.

More about the flight discounts is is on-line at www.ryanair.com and the Ham Radio convention web page is
www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/e (Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO PROMOTION: ARRL RELEASES FD VIDEOS

New videos promoting Field Day and amateur radio technology are now available from the ARRL. Both are short Public Service Announcements better known as P-S-A's.

According to the League's Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the Field Day PSA is meant to be posted on Web sites, added to e-mails and shared via the Internet. . The other which spotlightings amateur radio technology is meant for broadcast and cable TV.

The two spots were an all volunteer effort on the part of ARRL's national Public Relations Committee. This included Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, who is the voice heard on the Field Day PSA. Its available for download from the ARRL's Field Day Web page. The technology PSA is targeted for commercial TV uses. As such it is a high resolution, 43 megabyte MOV type file thast can also be downloaded from the ARRL. Because this version is meant for professional use, it has a formal 60 second lead-in followed by the 30 second PSA. A very low resolution preview version not meant for distribution.
is also available. (ARRL)

**
THE SOCIAL SCENE: MOVIMIENTO RADIAL DE PUERTO RICO ON APRIL 18

Turning to the ham radio social calendar, the Puerto Rico Radio Movement or Movimiento Radial de Puerto Rico will be sponsoring a special ham radio activity day on April 18th. This, for those who want to learn about

Amateur Radio.

During the day there will be demonstrations of various digital modes used by ham radio operators. The afternoon hours will see a special event station WP4NPC take to the air to commemorate World Amateur Radio Day 2009. For more information please contact Fernando Reyes, WP4KS, by e-mail to wp4ks(at) prtc (dot) net

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: BELTON TEXAS ON APRIL 18

The Belton Ham Expo is slated for Saturday, April 18th at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas. In addition to tailgate sales and vendors, attendees will also be able to upgrade by taking their ham radio tests at the event. Lots more on line about this one at www.beltonhamexpo.org. (Ham Expo)
**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: MT.BEACON ARC HAMFEST APRIL 26

And the Mount Beacon Amateur Radio Club is holding its annual Hamfest on Sunday April 26th. The venue is Tymor Park in the town of Unionvale. That's in central Dutchess County, New York. The gate opens at
8 a.m, Eastern Daylight time. More is on-line at www dot wr2abb dot org. (MBARC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: KI6SN NAMED NEW PUBLIC SERVICE EDITOR OF CQ

CQ Magazine has announced that Richard Fisher, KI6SN, of Riverside, California, has been named the new Public Service Editor of CQ Amateur Radio magazine. Fisher has been a professional journalist for 35 years, working in various capacities for daily newspapers on both the east and west coasts. He is also a prolific writer on amateur radio matters, writing the "Washington Beat" column for Popular Communications and the "Trail-Friendly Radio" column for WorldRadio Online. He succeeds Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, whose final column will appear in the May issue of CQ. Josuweit, who has covered amateur radio emergency and public service communications for CQ VHF, and then for CQ, since 1996, says that he is stepping down due to increased time demands at his full-time job. (CQ)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SOUTH AFRICA HANSAT LAUNCH AGAIN ON HOLD

The launch of the Southern African amateur radio satellite SumbandilaSat is again on hold. No reasons have been given for the latest launch delay, but rumors have it that one of the main payloads is not yet ready for launch. SumbandilaSat has been waiting over 2 years for its opportunity to ride into space.
(SA AMSAT)

**

COMMUNICATIONS NEWS: MAY IS MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

May is Military Appreciation Month and Grace Broadcast Sales is offering a pair of free 60 second Public Service Announcements saluting local men and women serving in the armed forces. Each spot has an open front 10 seconds and open 20 seconds at the close for station or sponsor inserts.

The Grace Broadcasts press release notes that the month of May is filled with military related holidays. May 1st is Loyalty Day and May 8th is V-E Day. The latter commemorates the allied forces World War II Victory in Europe. The 8th is also Military Spouse Appreciation Day. But that's not all. May 16th is Armed Forces Day and May 25th is of coarse Memorial Day

Grace Broadcast Sales says that radio stations are welcome to download these features and air them as often as you like. You can find them marked Support Our Troops free salute one and two at
http://www.gracebroadcast.com/prodNMAM.htm

Also, we want to remind you that May 23rd is Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. That's when hams and their clubs are encouraged to get on the air and show thanks, support, and appreciation all current and past members of the military. More on this event is also on-line at
www.armad.net. (ARNewsline(tm), RW, ARMAD, others)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: OLED BLUE IMPROVED BY 25%

A promising technology called organic light-emitting diodes, or OLED'ds has just seen a major breakthrough. Rearchers at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory have successfully synthesized and tested new materials that improve the power efficiency of blue OLEDs by at least 25 percent. They note that lighting consumes one-fifth of the electricity generated in the United States. They say that solid-state lighting offers tremendous potential to improve the situation once major research challenges are overcome.

OLED's are a multi-layered device that produce light by running an electrical current through a specially engineered host material into which light-producing phosphorescent molecules are embedded. The Department of Energy's solid state lighting program is funding the OLED research. (ScienceDaily)

**

EMERGING TECHNOKLOGY: MPEG SURROUND DESIGNATED INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Proponents say MPEG Surround is now an international standard, ready for deployment. Agere Systems, Coding Technologies, Fraunhofer and Philips said the Moving Pictures Expert Group has finalized the standardization process at the 79th MPEG meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. The document is MPEG-D standard document IS 23003-1. (MPEG Group)

**

WORLDBEAT: 500 kHz COMING TO IRELAND

Turning to news from around the globe, wird that a limited number of radio hobbyists in Ireland may soon have access to a low frequency band for continuing experimentation. Irish regulator ComReg has agreed to allow the Irish Radio Transmitters Society to apply for a limited number of permits to operate in the region of 500 kHz under a blanket license to be issued to that national amateur radio society,

Stations to which permits are issued will have to send regular reports to IRTS consisting of their experience of propagation, type of propagation used, noise experienced and methodology used. This, so that the information collected be coordinated and periodic reports submitted to ComReg. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: CELEBRATING THE EUROPEAN GEO PARKS

And from the UK listen out on Saturday, May 23rd and Sunday, May 24th for Martin Foster, G3GOF, and six other radio amateurs. This as they put the special call GB6GEO on the air again this year during the European Geo Parks Communication Event.

The group will take to the ham radio airwaves from the Cavern in Torquay which right in the heart of the English Riviera Global Geopark. But they will not be the only ones involved in the event. If you live in France, Spain, Italy, Austria, Romania, Czech Republic, Norway, Brazil, or China and are interested in participating in this event and, can obtain the special "GEO" suffix., To do so please contact G3VOF as soon as possible via e-mail to martin (at) riviera (dot) fm. More information on the European Geo Parks Communication Event is on-line at http://www.qrz.com/callsign/GB6GEO (OPDX)

**
ON THE AIR: RNW ANNOUNCES MORE WORLDWIDE COOPERATION
Radio Netherlands Worldwide wants to expand and intensify its collaborations with foreign media partners over the next few years. The legendary shortwave broadcast station says that cooperation and the exchange of content, in the form of text, audio and video, fits into the station's multimedia policy. Visual content, particularly web video, will assume an increasingly prominent role in the coming months and years. (Media Network)

**

ON THE AIR: VO1MGY COMMEMORATES THE TITANIC

Ham radio will once again commemorate the loss of the fabled luxury liner the Titanic that sank in the North Sea on the morning of April 15, 1912. In remembrance of this disaster the Society of Newfoundland Radio Amateurs will be operating on April 15th 2009, using the historic Titanic call sign suffix of MGY. This, from the Society's ham station located in the former British Admiralty wireless telegraphy station. Listen out for VO1MGY using CW on all bands where propagation permits. QSL confirmation will be available via the bureau. More is on the web at www.sonra.ca. (SONRA)

**

DX

In D-X, an international team of operators known as the Tifariti Gang will be on the air from Western Sahara through the 17of April using the callsign S04R. Their activity will be on all bands from 160 to 10m using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via EA5RM.

G3RWL will be active as 8P6DR from Barbados until April 24th He will operate holiday style on 160 to 10 meters using CW and various digital modes. QSL via G3RWL, either direct or bureau.

And OH2YL will be active as portable OH0 from the Aland Islands through the 14th of April. She will operate CW and SSB on the H F bands. QSL requests go directly to OH2YL.

(Above from various DX sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: FLORIDA GOES 11 METER CB

And finally this week, Florida has gained FCC approval to go 11 meter C-B. This as the FCC approves a request from the Florida Department of Transportation that asked the agency to permit it to operate an 11 meter Citizens Band remote base emergency alert system along the Florida Enterprise's Turnpike.

The Florida Department of Transportation had requested that it be permitted to operate wire controlled C-B remote bases at Orlando, Kissimmee, Yeehaw Junction, Ft. Pierce and Jupiter. This to provide emergency information to motorists along that highway.

In granting the request the FCC did put several restrictions on the operation of these remote base stations. Among these are that CB stations can transmit only during an emergency event such as hazardous weather conditions, impeded traffic flow, or incidents. They must cease transmissions when the event no longer presents a hazard.

Also, each transmission must identify the CB station operator as being with the Florida Department of Transportation. The operator must also provide a

telephone number or other contact information to which complaints of interference to CB communications can be directed.

Oh yes, less we forget. The FCC directed that the CB radio station operator should carefully consider channel selection to reduce the likelihood of harmful interference to on-going communications. And as they say on 11 meters, that's a "big 10-4." (FCC)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also be sure to mark April 18th as this year World Amateur Radio Day. World Amateur Radio Day will focus on the hobby as it empowers people and supports communities by providing emergency communication as well as public service oriented interaction for community and other special events.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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109. Hams provide backup comms after Santa Cruz cable cut

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-10 17:19:12 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <49df7893$0$5724$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 2119
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

```
-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

The following article is from the San Jose Mercury News:

Santa Cruz County in a black hole amid phone, Internet outage

http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_12115324

Amateur radio gets a good, detailed, mention in this article, which
included communications support for local hospitals, possibly as part of
the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System:

http://www.hdscs.org/

The reporter was even knowledgeable enough to realize that cellular
telephone is radio, but that there are different types of radio (with
varying degrees of dependence on fixed infrastructure such as cell tower
sites, commercial power, and land-lines).

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFJ33hZ6Pj0az779o4RAuuEAJwMPFTa4zPY6WtoDI363j4HlZzz8ACg1KSV
Sk4HhAqRvpfJGCVrjDhdEZg=
=mNmc
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----
```

110. San Luis Obispo, CA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-10 23:11:31 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <grojmo$a25$1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2120

I have heard a rumor, Repeat rumor, that the city of San Luis Obispo in
califunny has made operating a ham station illegal.

Can anybody confirm or deny this, and has SLO heard from the FCC or
ARRL as yet?

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

111. Re: San Luis Obispo, CA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-11 00:05:39 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <49dfdec8$0$1655$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2121

In article <grojmo$a25$1@reader1.panix.com>,
Rich Greenberg <richgr@panix.com> wrote:
>I have heard a rumor, Repeat rumor, that the city of San Luis Obispo in
>califunny has made operating a ham station illegal.
>
>Can anybody confirm or deny this, and has SLO heard from the FCC or
>ARRL as yet?

A quick Google search for "San Luis Obispo" "amateur radio"
turned up this article on the ARRL site:

http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/09/10763/?nc=1

which links to a PDF version of a press release from the SLO
County Office of Emergency Services.

Note that the original Internet rumor was posted on April 1st.

Patty

112. Re: San Luis Obispo, CA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-11 00:36:01 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <n755b6-akr.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2122

>I have heard a rumor, Repeat rumor, that the city of San Luis Obispo in
>califunny has made operating a ham station illegal.
>
>Can anybody confirm or deny this, and has SLO heard from the FCC or
>ARRL as yet?

You might want to consider browsing the ARRL web site.

Quick version: don't get your knickers in a twist.

Slightly less quick version: it's an April 1st hoax posting,
apparently written well enough that a fair number of people took it
seriously. It's a fabricated story, with no truth to it; it cites an
alleged news story from a news publisher which doesn't actually exist;
and it has been specifically denied by the SLO County Office of
Emergency Services.

Details can be found at:

http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/09/10763/?nc=1

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

113. Re: San Luis Obispo, CA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-11 04:13:04 UTC
From: jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com
Message-ID: <ns15b6-g79.ln1@mail.specsol.com>
Source record: 2123

Rich Greenberg <richgr@panix.com> wrote:
> I have heard a rumor, Repeat rumor, that the city of San Luis Obispo in
> califunny has made operating a ham station illegal.
>
> Can anybody confirm or deny this, and has SLO heard from the FCC or
> ARRL as yet?

http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=199671

--
Jim Pennino

Remove .spam.sux to reply.

114. Re: San Luis Obispo, CA

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-11 17:45:47 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <grql02$32v$2@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 2124

In article <ns15b6-g79.ln1@mail.specsol.com>,
<jimp@specsol.spam.sux.com> wrote:
>Rich Greenberg <richgr@panix.com> wrote:
>> I have heard a rumor, Repeat rumor, that the city of San Luis Obispo in
>> califunny has made operating a ham station illegal.
>>
>> Can anybody confirm or deny this, and has SLO heard from the FCC or
>> ARRL as yet?
>
>http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=199671

Thanks Patty, Dave & Jim. I heard it far enough after 4/1 that april
fool didn't occur to me.

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

115. Re: testing in Muscatine, Iowa 4/12/09

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-12 03:37:38 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <mik2u41bucbt3glr91nemdclb4eol81p86@4ax.com>
Source record: 2125
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

On Thu, 9 Apr 2009 20:18:40 EDT, Richard <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:

> The candidate must present a legal photo ID. This requirement is
> usually met with a driver's license, but it can be a passport or
> other legal identification card with the candidate's photo on it.

Here in Canada we would add the words "government issued" to photo ID.

Although that won't work for student ID or library cards.

Tony

116. Nebraska QSO Party

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-13 15:45:11 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090413132324.EF7E630C2A@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2126
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx,rec.radio.info

The 2009 Nebraska QSO Party will be active from 1700 UTC on April 25,
2009 through 1700 UTC on April 26, 2009 (That's noon to noon Central
Time!)

This is a fun event and a chance to help hams all over the world get
Nebraska contacts. It's your chance to act like rare DX!

For more information and the contest rules, please look at the
Heartland DX Association website: http://www.hdxa.net/neqso

73,
Art K0AIZ

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
---

117. Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 03:04:46 UTC
From: Martin Riddle <martin_rid@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <gs0ua5urr1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2127

I've been wanting to take the Technician exam and was wondering if can
just skip to the general exam with out taking the Tech exam.
I see references to License upgrades, so it looks like I need to take
the Tech and general Exams one after the other, Is this correct?

Thanks
Martin

118. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 03:24:07 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <2_SdnVtf29RfnHnUnZ2dnUVZ_smdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2128

Martin Riddle wrote:
> I've been wanting to take the Technician exam and was wondering if can
> just skip to the general exam with out taking the Tech exam.
> I see references to License upgrades, so it looks like I need to take
> the Tech and general Exams one after the other, Is this correct?

That is correct. You can take them at the same exam session if you wish.

73, Steve KB9X

119. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 06:08:19 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <olkdb6-ic8.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2129

In article <gs0ua5urr1@news.motzarella.org>,
Martin Riddle <martin_rid@verizon.net> wrote:

>I've been wanting to take the Technician exam and was wondering if can
>just skip to the general exam with out taking the Tech exam.

No, you cannot. You must pass the Tech exam before you may take the
General.

>I see references to License upgrades, so it looks like I need to take
>the Tech and general Exams one after the other, Is this correct?

Correct.

Most VE groups I've heard of, will only charge you a single exam fee
to take both exams in a single setting (or even Tech, General, Extra
if you really want to go for it) - you only have to pay a second fee
if you fail one exam and wish to re-take it (which you can often do
immediately, depending on the VE group's policies).

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

120. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 15:22:44 UTC
From: poster@giganews.com
Message-ID: <xa6dnaYdu9o8OnnUnZ2dnUVZ_iydnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2130

Dave Platt wrote:
> Most VE groups I've heard of, will only charge you a single exam fee
> to take both exams in a single setting (or even Tech, General, Extra
> if you really want to go for it) - you only have to pay a second fee
> if you fail one exam and wish to re-take it (which you can often do
> immediately, depending on the VE group's policies).

And it's probably good advice to sign up to take all three. The worst
that can happen is you only pass the exams you studied for -- the best
that can happen is you show the examiners you know more than you thought!

--

Doug Smith W9WI
Pleasant View, TN EM66

121. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 17:15:59 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <a2545a4d-7c6c-478e-89d7-6cd36c62a5dc@y7g2000yqa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2131

On Apr 13, 10:04 pm, "Martin Riddle" <martin_...@verizon.net> wrote:
> I've been wanting to take the Technician exam and was wondering if can
> just skip to the general exam with out taking the Tech exam.
> I see references to License upgrades, so it looks like I need to take
> the Tech and general Exams one after the other, Is this correct?

You have to take all the tests in order, no skipping tests. You have to prove you passed the first before you can take the second and you have to have passed the second before you can take the third. Proof that you passed can be either a copy of your license or a certificate of successful completion if you haven't received your upgraded license yet so keep all the paperwork the VE hands you back when you pass a test.

You can usually take multiple tests at one exam session as long as you go in order and don't run out of time. If you keep passing keep taking the next one as long as the VE will allow. Who knows you might actually pass.

When I was trying to upgrade to General from Tech, I passed the General test then I took the Extra test even though I didn't think I was ready. I was suprised when it was a passing grade. I know a new ham who went from nothing to Extra all in one setting. Who knows, you might be next.

-= bob =-

122. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 17:16:21 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <Pk3Fl.18$N5.8@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2132

"Dave Platt" <dplatt@radagast.org> wrote in message
news:olkdb6-ic8.ln1@radagast.org...
> In article <gs0ua5urr1@news.motzarella.org>,
> Martin Riddle <martin_rid@verizon.net> wrote:
>
> >I've been wanting to take the Technician exam and was wondering if can
> >just skip to the general exam with out taking the Tech exam.
>
> No, you cannot. You must pass the Tech exam before you may take the
> General.
>
> >I see references to License upgrades, so it looks like I need to take
> >the Tech and general Exams one after the other, Is this correct?
>
> Correct.
>
> Most VE groups I've heard of, will only charge you a single exam fee
> to take both exams in a single setting (or even Tech, General, Extra
> if you really want to go for it) - you only have to pay a second fee
> if you fail one exam and wish to re-take it (which you can often do
> immediately, depending on the VE group's policies).
>
I had no idea so much had changed. Where do I go online to find out how it
is done now?

In 73' I walked in as a novice and since it was the same price for the
entire session, I checked Extra and walked out with Advanced. Used to be
certain elements were required to be pieced together. The General and Tech
tests were slightly different because the technical section was the same but
some differences in operation due to different bands and modes, so you took
either General or Tech, not both. This created a fork in the road. If you
took Tech, it wasn't good for anything higher and you would have to take the
General to go higher. You took the code tests first to see how high you
could go, then selected the required test modules starting from the lowest
to highest. You keep credit for all you passed even if you were short one
module for a higher class, you could go back and retake the missing element
for the upgrade. I upgraded to Extra in 93 with the 20wpm test and a 25
question test.

123. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 22:03:09 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <t4u9u49o2iu3girai6e17h7uuhirp36u0t@4ax.com>
Source record: 2133

On Tue, 14 Apr 2009 02:08:19 EDT, dplatt@radagast.org (Dave Platt)
wrote:

>In article <gs0ua5urr1@news.motzarella.org>,
>Most VE groups I've heard of, will only charge you a single exam fee
>to take both exams in a single setting (or even Tech, General, Extra
>if you really want to go for it) - you only have to pay a second fee
>if you fail one exam and wish to re-take it (which you can often do
>immediately, depending on the VE group's policies).

This is per the rules in FCC Part 97. At any one session, you can
take as many exams as you can pass for one exam fee.

In March 2000, after the FCC announced the reduced code speed efective
April 15, 2000, I passed the General written and the code. The VE
suggested I continue on with the Advanced and Extra tests (the rules
hadn't changed yet, so I had to take both of them). I said that I had
not looked at the questions in over a year. He replied, "It won't
cost you any more. Go ahead." I passed the Advanced and Extra that
day. I was a Tech+ until I got a paper upgrade on April 15th.

Last year, a friend went into a session with no license (he had let a
General lapse about 20 years ago). He passed all 3 current written
exams and came out an Extra.

124. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-14 23:38:57 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <oeudnWRU2MUZg3jUnZ2dnUVZ_oSdnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2134

"Richard" wrote

> Last year, a friend went into a session with no license (he had let a
> General lapse about 20 years ago). He passed all 3 current written
> exams and came out an Extra.

At a VE session about 15 years ago I passed my Extra. No, it wasn't as exciting as passing my Advanced in 1970 at the FCC office in NYC.... After passing the Extra, I asked of the VE, who graded my written test and told me I passed, "Wow... what do I do now?" (Meaning, I've reached the top - what's next?) His reply? "You could take the Novice again." Then he commanded, "Now get out of here."

:-)

125. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-15 06:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1239775201@panix.com>
Source record: 2135
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.9 2009/04/12 19:28:26
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

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1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. |

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader |
opinions in March of 2009: |

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326 |

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider |
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to |
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated |
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying |
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt |
it permanently if successful. |

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently |
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which |
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and |
news.lists.misc. |

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those |
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want |
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at: |

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/ |

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either |
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including |
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc. |

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved |
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission |
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us |
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of |
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message) |
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may |
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with |
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded |
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct. |

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and | equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from | casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. | The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as | shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable | condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is | intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, | provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion | newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in | salvage condition. |

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be

more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management | Board: |

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers |

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

126. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-15 10:18:29 UTC
From: Martin Riddle <martin_rid@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <gs36oh$s91$1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2136

Thanks for the replies!

"Martin Riddle" <martin_rid@verizon.net> wrote in message
news:gs0ua5urr1@news.motzarella.org...
> I've been wanting to take the Technician exam and was wondering if can
> just skip to the general exam with out taking the Tech exam.
> I see references to License upgrades, so it looks like I need to take
> the Tech and general Exams one after the other, Is this correct?
>
> Thanks
> Martin
>

127. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-15 18:33:14 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <2KnFl.985$b11.182@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2137

"Howard Lester" <heylester@dakotacom.net> wrote in message
news:oeudnWRU2MUZg3jUnZ2dnUVZ_oSdnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip...
> "Richard" wrote
>
> > Last year, a friend went into a session with no license (he had let a
> > General lapse about 20 years ago). He passed all 3 current written
> > exams and came out an Extra.
>
> At a VE session about 15 years ago I passed my Extra. No, it wasn't as
> exciting as passing my Advanced in 1970 at the FCC office in NYC....
After
> passing the Extra, I asked of the VE, who graded my written test and told
me
> I passed, "Wow... what do I do now?" (Meaning, I've reached the top -
what's
> next?) His reply? "You could take the Novice again." Then he commanded,
> "Now get out of here."
>
> :-)
>
You could always be grandfathered onto CB or FRS

128. W0DXCC

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-15 20:44:35 UTC
From: K0HB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <CBA9A778976244A7BBEA998C215E3D3F@Laptop>
Source record: 2138
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

July 18th, 2009, at Rochester, MN. Contesting forums, vendors, DX forums, renowned speakers including ON4UN, N6BV, N0AX, K0IR, W0GJ, receiver/filter-guru Rob Sherwood, DX Banquet, and more.

Detail at
http://www.rahrahrochester.com/events/2009_W0DXCC_and_Contest/index.aspx

129. Re: Question on Exams

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-15 20:52:48 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <ybSdnVzdBsVY2HvUnZ2dnUVZ_vydnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2139

"JB" wrote

>> "Wow... what do I do now?" (Meaning, I've reached the top -
>> what's
>> next?) His reply? "You could take the Novice again." Then he commanded,
>> "Now get out of here."
>>
>> :-)

> You could always be grandfathered onto CB or FRS

I just should be grandfathered, period.

Seriously(?) when I was 15 I graduated from CB to ham radio. My CB friend and I decided that, if we're going to screw around legally on the radio, we might as well get our ham licenses. That's when the *real* fun began for a couple of nerdy teenagers.

130. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1653 - April 17 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-17 08:31:08 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090417012739.01659198@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2140
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1653 - April 17 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1653 with a release date of Friday, April 17th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio replaces telephones after vandals cut cables in northern California, ham radios post earthquake response winds down in Italy, the murderer of two hams at sea is sentenced to death and more on a not so funny ham radio April Fools joke that has now reached all the way to the FCC. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report
number 1653 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: NORCAL HAMS RESPOND TO CUT CABLE PHONE OUTAGE

Investigators say that they are looking for leads to find the criminal vandals that cut a number of northern California fiber optic cables that took out telephone and Internet service across southern Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties. This, as ham radio operators stepped in to provide communications alternatives for medical and emergency services effected by the outage. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with more:

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According to news reports, phones and Internet service went dead when one or more vandals severed 10 underground cables. Most were in San Jose, where the first four belong to AT&T were cut shortly before 1:30 a.m. on Thursday morning, April 9th. Four more underground were cut about two hours later at two locations in San Carlos, authorities said. Two others were cut in south San Jose. In ecah case the vandals had to access manhole covers weighing in excess of 250 pounds each.

Santa Clara County declared a state of local emergency as a result of the widespread outage. Among those services affected in all three counties by the sabotage were public safety crews that rely on 911 calls, hospitals trying to access medical records and people who wanted to make a landline or cell phone call. Jumping in to fill the communications gap were a number of the regions first responder amateur radio groups.

According to volunteer communicator Craig Smith, W6WL, ham radio operators organized themselves to assist with communications between

hospitals. About 25 operators were handling the radio traffic while another 50 to 60 had signed up to fill in when other volunteers got tired.

Meantime other teams of ham radio operators set up at Dominican, Sutter and Watsonville Community hospitals and a local American Red Cross office. They handled tactical traffic and messages between medical care providers, such as relaying information from one doctor to another.

News reports say that some of the hams who responded were the same operators who helped with communications during last summer's devastating wildfires and during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Repairs were completed, and full service was restored early Friday, April 10th. That was about 24 hours after the first problems were reported.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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So far no suspects have been named. Police revealed only that they are tracking down a bunch of leads and reviewing traffic-camera footage taken near one of four sites where the cables were cut in hopes of catching the culprits who committed the cable cutting crime. A total of a quarter million dollars is being offered for tips that lead their arrest and conviction. (WA6UHA, WA6LIE, SFNewsOnLine, others)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO HF QUAKE OPERATIONS IN ITALY WIND DOWN

Amateur radio High Frequency operations related to last weeks deadly earthquake that devastated L'Aquila Italy have wound down. This, according to Alberto Barbera, IK1YLO, who is the IARU National Emergency Communications Coordinator for that European nation

He reports via IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator, Greg Mossop, G0DUB, that he received a phone call on April 10th from the nations civil response agency stating that the use of ham radio on the High Frequency bands for emergency communications was being terminated. Also that all relief efforts were being transferred directly to L'Aquila.

Mossop says that monitoring the frequencies in use right after the quake shows no other emergency groups using them, so it is appropriate to return it to normal use. However since the post quake recovery is still ongoing, Mossop says to please listen before transmitting. If you hear any station passing emergency traffic please leave the frequency clear and avoid causing QRM. (Southgate, others)

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RADIO LAW: FCC PROPOSES UP TO 20 MHz AT 70CM FOR MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH

The FCC has suggested the allocation of 20 MHz of prime UHF spectrum in 413 to 456 MHz band for a truly worthy cause. But one that could adversely impact current spectrum users including the Amateur Radio and Amateur

Satellite services.

FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ET Docket 09-36 seeks comment on a recommendation to allocate up to 20 MHz of currently occupied UHF band space for use by wireless medical devices. These are tiny appliances could be implanted into the human body and used to restore sensation and mobility to paralyzed limbs and organs.

The devices would act as a wireless medical micro-power network within the patient. Among the conditions that could be treatable using them include polio, Lou Gehrig's disease, cerebral palsy, and spinal cord injuries.

The 400 MHz band is targeted because it is optimal for RF propagation through body tissue. The devices would require at least 5 MHz of bandwidth to function and would operate on a low power, secondary non-interference basis.

Twenty MHz of spectrum in four band segments are proposed so that the device would have multiple options in case one band segment was already in use in a given area. These are 413 to 419 MHz, 426 to 432 MHz, 438 to 444 MHz and 451to 457 MHz. Its assumed this allocation would be on a secondary, non-interfering use with current users of this band space. In fact, comments are also being sought on the potential for interference between these new devices and current spectrum users. Amateur radio and amateur satellites have heavily used allocations in the 420 to 450 MHz band.

In announcing the release of ET Docket 09-36 acting Commission Chairman Michael Copps stated that he was pleased to support this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which he says examines the possible allocation of additional spectrum and service rules for use by advanced wireless devices. He indicates that this new technology could significantly enhance the quality of life of many Americans that suffer from a wide array of neuromuscular disorders.

The text of the FCC news release can be found at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-289482A1.doc or http://tinyurl.com/ct8ntw) (FCC)

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THE BPL WAR: FIBEROPTICS IN AND BPL OUT DOWN UNDER

Hams down-under appear to be safe from the rollout of a nationwide Broadband over Powerline or BPL system. This as Australia's government announces that it will be building a system based on fiber optic technology. Graham Kemp, VK4BB, is in Brisbane with the details:

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The Australian Federal Government has announced its decision on Australias National Broadband Network. In a surprise move, instead of deploying a widely expected half-way-house fiber-to-the-node (FttN) solution from a consortium of companies, the Government is moving ahead with its own

full-blown 100Mb/s fibre to the home rollout, (FttH). The reported $43 billion project will include a mix of government and private sector funding which may or may not include telecommunications companies.

Telecommunications analyst Paul Budde states: "This is the most ambitious infrastructure ever undertaken in Australia and will be the most ambitious FttH network anywhere undertaken in the world. The Australian Government is one of the few governments who, in a holistic way, understand the importance of broadband across the various sectors. This network is not just for high-speed Internet and entertainment but, more importantly, for healthcare, education,
smart grids, etc".

This is good news for Australian's in general, and also for Australian radio amateurs. Australia's largest telecommunications carrier, Telstra, was excluded from the original selection process on the grounds of submitting a non-compliant bid, however, as Telstra owns most of the copper cable in the ground, any fiber-to-the-node solution which did not include Telstra would have resulted in a variety of 'alternative' access technologies used to connect the ï¿½node' to customers premises. Although there may be many steps along the way, the predominant access technology in Australian cities will now be fiber, and in less populated areas will likely be wireless.

This decision would appear to remove the possibility of widespread interference to radio communications from any network-wide adoption of BPL technology, but still leaves as a concern the possibility of interference from in-home use of BPL as an internal distribution technology.

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The decision by Australia to opt away from BPL is likely a major blow to the world-wide implementation of this technology. This is because other nations will look at Australia's decision to go fiber and based upon it reconsider any commitment to BPL. (WIA News)

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RESTRUCTURING: NEW ZEALAND MAY INTRODUCE FOUNDATION CLASS

New Zealand appears headed toward the introduction of an entry level Foundation Class ham radio operating permit. This according to the February minutes of the New Zealand national amateur radio society NZART
. .

The minutes report that ZL2UFI has presented a draft document on the creation of a Foundation Amateur Operators Certificate. Also that the Council agreed that while future members on Council may not share the view of an additional license that the present Council members had been tasked at the Annual General Meeting in Dunedin 2008 to proceed with the option of a Foundation Certificate.

But there is one caveat. Any New Zealand Foundation Class will not be considered as a full license. Rather it will be a Foundation Certificate so that the nations telecommunications regulator the MED is not forced to introduce a new grade of examination. MED will only have to make a change in New Zealand's Radio Regulations. (NZART)

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BREAK 1

This week from the Auckland New Zealand and the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K4LJP repeater system serving West Palm Beach, Florida.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESTRUCTURING: INDONESIA HAMS GET CENTRALIZED LICENSING

Some welcome changes to the rules governing ham radio in Indonesia. This as that nations telecommunications regulator says that its taking over all aspects of issuing licenses. John Lego, VK3BUI, reports:

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The Indonesian Government is seeking to take a central control of licenses for radio amateurs ending the current practice of permits being issued by provincial authorities. The Jakarta Global National reports that the proposed action is to plug a loop hole in permit issuing that has apparently resulted in commercial broadcasting.

Communications and Information Technology Ministry spokesman Gatot Dewa Broto says that new amendments are aimed at strengthening the guidelines for amateur radio activities.

He says ham radio is vital for establishing contact with areas where there are no telephone lines or cellphone access, including areas left without communications after disaster struck. In particularly the government recognizes the very good response by radio amateurs to the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004 that severely hit the Indonesian provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra.

The IARU member society ORARI -- the Organisasi Amatir Radio Indonesia -- Secretary General Suryo Susilo YB0JTR says the new draft rules amend the permit application and frequency granting procedures. He said ORARI has been involved in the drawing up of the draft amendments which will be of benefit to ORARI's activities and radio amateurs, and demonstrates government support for them.

I'm John, VK3BUI.

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No date was announced as to when the changes in Indonesian radio law will occur. (WIA News)

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RADIO JUSTICE: MUDERER OF KD7VWJ AND KD7VWK SENTENCED TO DEATH

Back in the United States, The man who masterminded the murders of two hams in order to try to steal their boat and their life savings will pay the ultimate penalty. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has been following this case and has the latest:

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The next stop for Skylar Deleon is Death Roe at California's San Quentin prison. This, after a California judge has sentences the former child actor to death for murdering an Arizona ham couple by tying them to an anchor and throwing them overboard from their yacht off the southern California coastline.

The same jury that had convicted Deleon last November of killing Tom and Jackie Hawks KD7VWJ and KD7VWK recommended that he be put to death. On Friday, April 10th Orange County Superior Court Judge Frank F. Fasel officially imposed the jury's recommendation that Deleon forfeit his life to pay for his crimes.

In fact, in his sentencing order Judge Fasel stated: "It is the judgment and order of this court you shall suffer the death penalty as to each count."

This, a reference to the findings that the Hawkes murders were premeditated and that Deleon was convicted for each one with special circumstances. That special circumstance was multiple murder for profit and is what made him eligible for the death penalty.

As previously reported, prosecutors say that Deleon faked interest in buying the Hawkes yacht and that he and his accomplices forced them to sign the boat over and then killed them during a test cruise in 2004. Three others including Deleon's former wife Jennifer have also been convicted of the same or related charges. Accomplice John Fitzgerald Kennedy's recent trial jury also recommended the death penalty. He will be formally sentenced sometime in May.

But Deleon will likely not be put to death anytime soon. Under California state law there are a series of automatic appeals that could go on for several years.

For the Amateur radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Deleon was also convicted in the 2003 killing of Jon Jarvi, whom he reportedly met on a work furlough program. (ARNewsline(tm) from published reports)

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ON THE NET: BAD APRIL FOOLS JOKE CONTINUES TO BACKFIRE

When is a ham radio April Fools joke stop being an April Fools joke? How about when the FCC and county officials get involved. Randy Malick, KF0X, reports:

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That not so funny April Fools Internet article reported on last week -- the one claiming that San Louis Obispo County California had banned ham radio operations as a health hazard has now reached all the way back to the nations capital. In fact its entered the doors at the FCC.

According to the ARRL, San Luis Obispo County officials were notified by the Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday, April 8th of the story which carried a date of April 1st. The FCC reported it had received a number inquiries about the posting, which first noted on radiobanter.com web log and was later picked up by Google Groups and re-posted world wide.

As a result of this and other notifications from the local southern California ham community, the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services has issued a statement. One that confirms the story to be a fraud while heaping praise on the nations ham radio community.

The release says in part that not only is the online story not true, but San Luis Obispo County government, along with the incorporated cities within the county and other entities work hand-in-hand with Amateur Radio operators. Hams who the county says are always ready to provide alternate and back-up communications in case of unique emergencies or disasters.

But that's not all. It added that that the County looks to sign ham radio operators up as Disaster Service Workers to assist in times of need and it calls their assistance absolutely appreciated.

Lastly, the county notes that radio amateurs have communications set up, or wired to be set up quickly, in city Emergency Operations Centers, the County EOC and other emergency and disaster coordination sites throughout the area. Obviously this is a very strong bond between the county and its ham radio community and one that no nameless blogger is going to break.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Randy Malick, KF0X, in Tucson.

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Meantime, hams across southern California and neighboring areas are getting increasingly agitated as the Internet-based rumor continues to spread. More and more calls are being heard for an investigation to locate, expose and if possible to prosecute the person who wrote and posted the article. There has also been at least one suggestion of a class action suit against the author for defaming the amateur radio service. If legal action is not possible then some feel that its apropos to at least publicly identify the person so as to subject him or her subject to public ridicule. This, in the hope that he or she will leave the hobby and never return. (ARNewsline(tm), ARRL, listener input and other published reports)

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RADIO LAW: PRB-1 DOES NOT APPLY IN MOBILE HOME PARK

If you live in a mobile home park and the park managers tell you that you canny have a ham radio antenna, don't go to the FCC and ask it to impose PRB One. As one ham recently found out, the FCC is not going to do it. Here's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, with the reason the Commission says its not going to get involved:

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In its second PRB-1 related ruling in the past two weeks, the FCC has again said that thiss aspect of federal preemption does not apply in cases where conditions, covenants and other deed restrictions are in force. This now includes hams living in mobile home parks where the management says that no outdoor antennas are allowed.

By way of background, back in October 2007, Christopher Kaczmarek, KB8MLC, of Saginaw, Michigan, asked the FCC if PRB-1 could be enforced to require the mobile home park in which he lives in to let him keep his ham radio antenna system. He had previously been notified by the parks management that no antennas of any type were allowed.

On April 6, 2009, the FCC denied Kaczmarek's request. In its ruling the regulatory agency noted that PRB-1 covers only state and local regulation of antenna structures. The agency told Kaczmarek that it is hesitant to become involved in the area where agreements between private parties are voluntarily established and freely entered into. This includes whatever restrictions that a mobile home park places on its space renters.

The FCC also noted that twice before it has addressed this same issue and that in all cases it has chosen not to preempt private land use regulations that restrict the installation of antennas and associated support structures used by Amateur Radio stations. This means that Kaczmarek or anyone else who wants to challenge a mobile home parks restrictions on outdoor antennas is going to have to do so in court, on their own.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno.

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The bottom line appears to be that the FCC is not the place to go to look for relief from deed and renters agreements that preclude ham radio antennas. Rather its going to take congressional action to declare these restrictions as unconstitutional before the FCC will act. (FCC release)

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SUGGESTED READING: THE IARU REGION 3 NEWSLETTER

A new issue of the IARU Region 3 newsletter is available to download. Among the items covered are this weekends World Amateur Radio Day and Global Simulated Emergency Test both on April 18th. Also included are reports on the recent Australian bushfire disaster and the now underway expansion of 40 Meter band. You can get copies in aP DF version: http://www.iaru-r3.org/news/r3nl-09-04.pdf or Word version at

http://www.iaru-r3.org/news/r3nl-09-04.doc (IARU Region 3, Southgate)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. This week from beneath the Southern Cross, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO BUSINESS: BUCKMASTER HAMCALL DATABASE EXCEEDS 2 MILLION

Buckmaster Publishing' has announced that its HamCall Callsign Database now exceeds 2,000,000 world-wide callsigns, with data from over two hundred countries.

HamCall says that it is the world's largest callsign database and is available on CD-ROM as well as on the hamcall.net website. A typical callsign listing includes mailing address, e-mail address, accurate latitude/ longitude, grid square, QSL manager, previous callsigns, photo and much more. And for those who want to have all of this information on their home computer a new HamCall CD-ROM is published each month.

For further information on HamCall and other Buckmaster products please contact: Jack Speer, N1BIC, at Buckmaster Publishing, 6196 Jefferson Hwy, Mineral, Virginia 23117. Or you can e-mail Jack to info (at) buck (dot) com. Either way you will get a quick response for one of the nicest people that we have ever met who is serving the needs of the world-wide ham radio community. (ARNewsline(tm) via press release)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: AIRVENTURE 2009

The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club will host a special event station from the Pioneer Airport durring the EAA's Airventure 2009 Airshow. The cub will be on the air daily on Wednesday July 29th through Sunday August 30th. This, from 1300 to 2100 UTC on 20 and 40 meters SSB and 6 meter FM. . Further information is on-line at www.fcarc.us or by e-mail to ab9ah (at) arrl (dot) net (Via e-mail)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NZ KIWI-SAT GETS ADDED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

New Zealand's KiwiSat has gotten some additional funding in the form of a $1000 from the Auckland VHF Group. This money will be used for the purchase of the special Aluminum blocks from which the very structure of KiwiSAT will be milled by Mike Jack of Stanier Engineering. Stanier is a small precision engineering company based in Auckland. Video of the milling

process will be available on the KiwiSat website at kiwisat.org/index.html. (ANS)

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ON THE AIR: DEBRECEN OCCUPATION ON THE AIR REMINDER

Hungarian radio amateurs from the city of Debrecen will be active as the special call HG160FNY through July 31st. This ias an on the air activity is to remind everyone of the historical event 160 years ago where the Austrian army occupied the then capital city of Debrecen and of Transdanubium.

The principal special callsign will be HG160FNY will be used by several different operators. Listen out for it on all of the HF bands as well as VHF and UHF using various modes including some digital. QSOs are good towards the commemorative diploma. The QSL Manager is Zoli, HA0DX. (OPDX)

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ON THE AIR: BULGARIA CELEBRATES CW

Members of the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs will be active as LZ8WHST. This, to promote the next World High Speed Telegraphy Championship to be held in Obzor, Bulgaria, from September 11th to the 15th.

This special callsign will be randomly activated by several different federation operators from their home QTH and will be active until the end of September. Operation will be 99% CW, with the possibility of some occasional SSB and digital contacts. QSL via LZ1PJ. (Southgate)

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ON THE AIR: THE CARABINIERI AWARD

Its almost Carabinieri Award time. The aim of the Carabinieri Award is for amateurs and SWL around the world to contact or listen and log as many Carabinieri On The Air members. This, between 07:00 on May 20th and 19.00 UTC on June 5th. Contacts can be made using the 80, 40 and 20m bands on SSB, CW, PSK31 or RTTY and you are allowed one contact a day for the same band using the same mode with the same Carabinieri member. The official list of Carabinieri On The Air award amateurs as well as details of the points system and award that are available, are on line at www.cota.ce. (COTA)

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DX

In DX, word that HB9TZA says that he will spend his Easter holidays on Malta and on the air through April 23rd as 9H3JR. Listen out for him mainly on 40 and 17 meters using SSB though he might show up on other high frequency bands as well. QSL via I2JJR.

OH4MDY is back again in Cambodia and is signing the call XU7MDY on CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31/ Hes reportedly operating on 80 through 10 meters and will be at the location through April 21st. QSLs only direct via Reijo Laitinen, Mantytie 13, 76940 Nenonpelto, Finland.

The "4 M 5 DX Group" is planning another activity as Y-W-Zero-A from Aves Island. Up to 15 operators will be on using SSB, CW and RTTY on 160 through 6 meters but the activity is depending on the transportation by the Venezuelan navy. QSL this one to IT9DAA direct, via the bureau or electronically using Logbook to the World.

And word that SV1JG, will be active from the Maldives as 8Q7SV between April 29th and May 5th. His operation will be mostly CW and digital modes on all bands. QSL via SV1JG, direct or by the bureau.

N7EAA will be active from Guyana as 8R1AD between April 20th and May 3rd. Operations will be on 20 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. The operators say that they plan to look for stations who are young ham operators and running low power. QSL via N7EAA.

Lastly, G3RWL, is once again active as 8P6DRfrom Barbados through April 24th. His operation is holiday style on 160 through 10 meters using CW and the Digital modes only. But don't look for him on April 18th or maybe a few days afterward as the 18th is his wedding day and he will likely have things other than ham radio on his mind. But if you make contact QSL via his home callsign, direct or via the bureau. We say congratulations to the new bride and the groom.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: AC0MX TAKES PRIZE WITH HAM RADIO AT SCIENCE FAIR

And finally this week, a big shout out of congratulations to Jill Niemeier, AC0MX. This, on her award in engineering at the 53rd Annual Southeast Missouri Regional Science Fair. Rebecca Bruce, reports:

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According to the Dulkin Democrat on-line newspaper, in her first year of competing in the science fair at the senior level, Jill Niemeier, AC0MX entered the third part in her continuing project "Emergency Communications." She not only took the second place in engineering, but also the Cape Girardeau Area Engineers Club Award, a U.S. Savings Bond, and a U.S. Army Award. Her first two entries at the junior level received several awards and acclamations as well.

But Jill's interest is not just in winning Science Fair's and awards. Rather it is in helping the community as evidenced by her newest aspect of the project titled "Emergency Communications Propagation." This is described as a micro-propagation study of the two-meter amateur radio band specific to emergency communications in a public school setting.

Jill's project focuses on helping the different campuses in the Kennett School District communicate with each other during a disaster. To accomplish this study, AC0MX is in the process of setting up low-power radio systems for the five campuses in the district. Each case will is equipped with a radio, a police scanner, a pack of batteries, and several adapters allowing the radio to draw power from vehicle batteries. A Health Services representative at each location will be trained and licensed to use the gear.

But that's not all. To go along with the radio aspect of the project, Jill
Niemeier gathered GPS data for every entry into every building on each campus. This information will be useful in the event that the buildings are on the ground. In planning for her project, AC0MX pursued the theory that if the New Madrid Fault area ever has a major earthquake, the normal means of communication will be lost. She wants to make certain that schools will be able to continue to talk with the outside world in such a circumstance.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Rebecca Bruce, no call yet, In Los Angeles.

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Jill is the daughter of Donna Gill and Mark Niemeier and attends Kennett High School. Her research project began four years ago when she became a member of the school's amateur radio club. That's where she became interested in radio operation, propagation, and emergency communications.. In 2007, Jill earned her Amateur license and the call KC0YQJ. She currently holds an Extra and the AC0MX call. (ARNewsline, Dulkin Democrat)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937,
Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also be sure to mark April 18th as this year World Amateur Radio Day. World Amateur Radio Day will focus on the hobby as it empowers people and supports communities by providing emergency communication as well as

public service oriented interaction for community and other special events.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Meachen,
ZL2BHF, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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131. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 15 (Friday, April 17, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-17 19:48:37 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090417194807.2F578314D5@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2141
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 15
April 17, 2009
***************

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* + When Vandals Strike Infrastructure, Hams Provide Communications Support
* + ARRL Comments on Broadband Provisions in Recovery Act
* + Look for the May Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
* + California Teen Is 2009 Goldfarb Scholarship Recipient
* + Hams in Southeastern US Provide Spotting Assistance to NWS
* + Forum Schedule Announced for 2009 Dayton Hamvention
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ No ARRL Audio News April 24
+ Italy Discontinues HF Earthquake Net

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> WHEN VANDALS STRIKE INFRASTRUCTURE, HAMS PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

Just after midnight on April 9, someone climbed down four manholes in the San
Jose, California area and cut underground fiber optic cables. The sabotage
led to widespread disruption of phone service -- including tens of thousands
of land lines, an undetermined number of cell phones, Internet access and 911
emergency service -- in southern Santa Clara County, as well as in Santa Cruz
and San Benito counties. San Jose is the county seat of Santa Clara County.
With the infrastructure disabled, local Emergency Management officials called
on ham radio operators in their communities to provide back-up
communications. According to the "San Jose Mercury News," Santa Clara County
called a local state of emergency, "but worst-case scenarios were
successfully avoided through use of ham radios, door-to-door checks and
extra-vigilant patrols"
<http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_12121118?nclick_check=1>.
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In Santa Cruz County, just over the Santa Cruz Mountains from San Jose, Santa Cruz County District Emergency Coordinator Cap Pennell, KE6AFE, was awoken just after 5 AM on April 9 by uniformed police at his door. Sent by Dominican Hospital President Nanette Mickiewicz, the police officers escorted Pennell to the hospital for a brief on this situation: The fiber optic lines that had been cut in San Jose had affected the Santa Cruz hospital's communications infrastructure, cutting off communications from the hospital to the outside world. Santa Cruz is located on the northern edge of the Monterey Bay, about 70 miles south of San Francisco.

"While I was meeting with hospital department heads, Bob Wolbert, K6XX, had started our ARES Resource Net on the W6WLS/W6MOW linked repeaters," Pennell told the ARRL. "During the briefing, the hospital determined to implement HICS/SEMS for this emergency. There hadn't been telephones or Internet anywhere since about 2:30 AM. The hospital's phone system did work, but only within the hospital. Their internal computer local area network wasn't working either, so they were instantly on a 'paper system.'"

By 6:15, Pennell said they had established tactical radio links on the K6BJ/KI6EH linked repeaters between the Dominican Hospital Emergency Operations Center in Santa Cruz and the Watsonville Community Hospital emergency room; Watsonville is about 15 miles south of Santa Cruz via the Pacific Coast Highway. "We established HEARNET 155.385 simplex between both hospital ERs and County 911; HEARNET is the Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio Network. Once HEARNET (ER staff) and K6BJ repeater (hams) were staffed and operating at both hospitals, I left the hospital to become our initial ham operator at the County Emergency Operations Center and operated as ARES/ACS shift supervisor from there for the rest of the day," Pennell reported.

Throughout the day, Pennell said that hams -- including some in Monterey County who had been working telephones -- helped dispatch ambulances, conferred with the Poison Center on a children's poisoning case, ordered replacement blood supplies for two hospitals from San Jose Red Cross, relayed a complex major "whole hospital" day's food order to the supplier out of county, tracked down various doctors for emergency consultations and shared status updates from our area. "We did all this while in unity with the County government, public safety agencies and California Emergency Management Agency's Coastal Region," he said. "Greg Smith of Cal-EMA <http://www.calema.ca.gov/> spent the day in the Santa Cruz EOC with us." All service was restored by 12:15 AM on Friday, April 10.

NETCOM, the dispatch center for most police and fire agencies in Santa Cruz County, was able to receive 911 calls placed from land lines, but could not receive calls placed from cell phones, said Santa Cruz County Senior Dispatcher Stephanie Zube. "Because the only phone number many land line phone owners could call was 911," she said the center received "countless calls" regarding the blackout: "At least several people attempted to call 911 before driving themselves to the emergency room. A lady in Gilroy fled her home when a robber broke in, and couldn't call 911 before fleeing to a nearby firehouse."

Vandalism Takes Out System

San Jose and San Carlos police are joined in their investigation of the cut fiber optic cables -- now considered by authorities to be a coordinated act of sabotage -- by the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and the FBI. The investigation also includes members of AT&T's security force, a handful of trained investigators working for the company. Authorities said on April 10 that evidence collection was complete, but would not elaborate on what exactly what they are examining or whether new security measures are in place to prevent similar acts of destruction.

San Jose police reported receiving about 10 tips concerning the sabotage; San Carlos police told the "Mercury News" that they were examining video surveillance of a major intersection near one of the four locations where AT&T's underground fiber-optic cables were sliced early Thursday morning.

On April 11, AT&T issued a $100,000 reward for information, but bumped up the reward to $250,000 the next day when it discovered that the damage was more serious than originally thought. According to the Daily Tech, some banks in the area were forced to close temporarily, while all service was disabled and hand-written receipts were offered to customers. Many businesses also were forced to either accept cash or close for a few hours, since credit card and ATM transactions were unavailable <http://www.dailytech.com/Vandals+Cut+Phone+Cables+Drop+Service+for+50K+People+911+Services/article14821.htm>.

Authorities say the communications sabotage occurred in two separate incidents, one at 1:30 AM in south San Jose and the other two hours later in San Carlos. Several companies, such as Verizon, "piggy back" on the AT&T-owned cables. AT&T spokesman John Britton told the "Mercury News" <http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_12115324?nclick> that it appears vandals opened a manhole and climbed down at least 8 feet to cut four or five fiber optic cables along Monterey Road just north of the Blossom Hill Road exit. The second vandalism was along Old County Road near Bing Street in San Carlos. San Jose police spokesman Sergeant Ronnie Lopez said the manhole covers are heavy and would take quite an effort to lift, perhaps even requiring a tool. Investigators do not have a suspect yet, he said, but have learned "to expect the unexpected. We have some obvious clues and can assume some things," but a motive remains elusive <http://www.mercurynews.com/valley/ci_12142268>.

Community Leaders Praise Hams

Gilroy, the southernmost city in Santa Clara County, was also affected. City Administrator/Director of Emergency Services Thomas J. Haglund expressed his thanks to the Amateur Radio operators who assisted with communications support, saying, "This particular emergency situation underscores that our reliance on technology should be balanced with maintaining the very types of capabilities that you provided to us. Communication is an obvious key to adequately responding to any emergency and the efforts of the Mutual Aid Communicators and the Gilroy Police VIP's provided the necessary communication and public visibility in this instance and demonstrated just how important your training and skill is to our community. Thank you very much for your dedication and expertise."

Gilroy Police Chief Denise Turner echoed Haglund's comments: "We truly appreciated all of your help during this challenging event! Each of you played a key role in a successful operation. I feel better knowing we have dedicated volunteers like you that will come to our aid in time of need! Thank you!" -- Some information provided by "The San Jose Mercury News" and "The Daily Tech"

==> ARRL COMMENTS ON BROADBAND PROVISIONS IN RECOVERY ACT

On March 24, 2009, the FCC invited comments from interested parties concerning the Commission's consultative role in the broadband provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) <http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2009/db0324/DA-09-668A1.pdf >. In the Recovery Act, Congress assigned grant and loanmaking responsibilities to the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). On April 13, the ARRL, through General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, submitted comments <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/BroadbandDefinitionDocket09-40.pdf> that expressed concern as "the threshold for what constitutes 'broadband' is a critical determination that will inevitably determine the success or failure of the [Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program] BTOP <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/> program going forward."

In the League's comments to the FCC, the ARRL asked the Commission to adopt as the definition of broadband "those technologies capable of the minimum threshold bidirectional speeds [as recommended in the ARRL's comments], without variation among the type of broadband technology under consideration, as a minimum threshold in order to be considered for grants or loans of public funds."

While the FCC has no funds under the Recovery Act for grant or loanmaking, it does, however, have what the Commission describes as "an important role to play in providing expert, technical advice to the NTIA" as it establishes the BTOP, "and the Commission may also provide expert, technical advice to RUS as it proceeds with its own programs."

Imlay pointed out to the Commission that the ARRL actively participates in the Committee for Communications Policy of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA (IEEE-USA CCP), "which has engaged in considerable discussion of universal access to high-speed broadband networks, and in particular, broadband definitions and target goals for broadband deployment" <http://www.ieeeusa.org/volunteers/committees/ccp/>.

He told the Commission that the ARRL "wholeheartedly concurs" with that organization's views on broadband technologies, as detailed in its position statement, 'Nationwide High Speed Broadband Data Services,' that says "The most important short-term goal is broadening ubiquitous availability [of broadband]. Data rates should be sufficient to provide the equivalent of several channels of bidirectional, high resolution video, achievable by expanding the capabilities of current technologies" <http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/positions/broadband.pdf>.

The IEEE also says that it "initially advocates" the achievement of at least 20 Mb/s bidirectional speed with 90 percent availability throughout the nation within five years. "The wide penetration of such speeds will achieve most of the expected benefits and accommodate numerous simultaneous applications per household or small business. Of course, greater speeds can be had by those with greater needs. We further advocate the achievement of at least 100 Mb/s bidirectional speed with availability to all businesses and households within 10 years. The technology necessary to meet this goal is scalable to almost any future need at inexpensive upgrade costs."

Imlay said that IEEE-USA's position statement concludes that there are "two overarching goals for nationwide high-speed broadband networks: widespread availability and high performance." In providing public funds to achieve widespread availability, Imlay stated that the FCC, NTIA and the RUS should ensure that high performance should not be set aside to achieve that goal. "This," he told the Commission, "to ARRL, means the establishment of a floor for throughput of at least 20 Mb/s bidirectional speed for funding of broadband systems to be developed between now and 2014, and 100 Mb/s bidirectional speed for those systems to be implemented between 2014 and 2019. Expenditure of public funds should be limited to the technologies that can meet these goals."

The IEEE-USA statement also notes, Imlay explained to the Commission, that the FCC's recently adopted definition of broadband speed "is a series of tiers, starting as low as 768 kb/s. As noted in the statement, this is woefully inadequate to perform even current computing applications." Imlay called for an elimination of tiers "at least for purposes of determining what broadband technologies should be funded with public funds."

Imlay, in his comments, said that the "most urgent" of the FCC's "consultative issues with the NTIA" involve defining just what broadband is. "The Commission is obligated pursuant to the Recovery Act to consult with NTIA on the establishment of a national broadband service deployment and expansion program, and the NTIA is obligated, through the BTOP program, to provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas," he said. "It is not useful in the expenditure of large sums of Recovery Act funds to promote broadband technologies that do not include the capabilities needed by individuals and businesses located in rural or underserved areas. Therefore, the threshold for what constitutes 'broadband' is a critical determination that will inevitably determine the success or failure of the BTOP program going forward."

The ARRL recognizes that the FCC has struggled with this definition for some time, Imlay wrote: "Indeed, in the Notice of Inquiry in Docket 09-51, FCC 09-31, released April 8, 2009 (at ï¿½15-16), the Commission stated that 'Broadband can be defined in myriad ways. In order to ensure that all people of the United States have access to broadband capability, we must make sure that the Commission appropriately identifies goals and benchmarks in this regard...In addition, to the extent that broadband is defined by 'speed,' should the Commission consider raising the speeds that define broadband? Should we distinguish among the various broadband technologies?" <http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2009/db0408/FCC-09-31A1.pdf

>

Imlay said that it is the ARRL's position that the definition of "broadband" should include an "absolute lower threshold, minimum bidirectional speed. It should not be a variable concept determined by technology. To do otherwise is to provide grants and loans of public funds to technologies whose benefits are, in the medium term, inadequate and which might, for example, render businesses in rural areas less competitive than those located in urban areas. It is, in other words, not useful to fund the creation of infrastructure that will be obsolete in the near term or less useful than other technologies which provide greater speeds. That simply perpetuates the status quo, where there will still, going forward, be adequately served and underserved areas. The status quo is quite obviously unacceptable to Congress, and it should be.

==> LOOK FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The May issue of QST has left for the printer and is speeding toward your mailbox. This issue -- with its cover featuring the 2009 ARRL National Convention and the Dayton Hamvention -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

In the May issue, Dwight Merkley, N7KBC, shows a way to see what's happening at night on your mobile radio in his article "See Your Mobile Controls at Night with Superbright LEDs." Discover another way to talk on your radio in "A Cell Phone Headset Adapter for Amateur Radio" by Geoff Haines, N1GY. Is your antenna beam pointed at the best possible elevation for the contacts you want to make? Find out in the article "What's the Best Height for My HF Beam?" by Steve Hunt, G3TXQ.

If you're excited about the 2009 ARRL National Convention and the Dayton Hamvention, you're definitely not alone! Catch up on all the latest happenings at these events in S. Khrystyne Keane's, K1SFA, article, "Something for Everyone at the 2009 ARRL National Convention." ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, gives readers a glimpse into the life of Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, son of US astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL. Find out in the May QST how you can meet Richard in Dayton at the ARRL EXPO.

If you like the competitive spirit of radiosport, but you have a hankering for the big outdoors, why not try ARDF, or Amateur Radio Direction Finding? ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, explores the world of ARDF in "This Month in Contesting." According to Kutzko, all you need to get started in competitive ARDF is "your running shows, a set of headphones attached to a receiver, a map or compass and a small handheld directional receiver. Now run through a course in a forest or on a trail, and try to find several hidden transmitters as fast as possible." Kelly Taylor, VE4XT, reports on the results of the 2008 ARRL CW Sweepstakes in this issue.

ARRL Contributing Author Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, reviews Kenwood's RC-D710 Control Head/TNC. According to Pearce, the RC-D710 "upgrades the TM-V71A transceiver to add packet radio and APRS capabilities identical to Kenwood's

TM-D710A transceiver, and it can be used with other radios as a stand-alone TNC." Be sure to also check out the reviews by ARRL Technical Advisor Bruce Prior, N7RR, on portable dual-lever keyer paddles, also in the May issue.

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and love in the May QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your May issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> CALIFORNIA TEEN IS 2009 GOLDFARB SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

In April, the ARRL Foundation Board of Directors <http://www.arrlf.org> voted unanimously to award the prestigious William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship to Dean LaBarba, KI6CUX, of Long Beach, California. LaBarba will graduate from Woodrow Wilson High School this year with a GPA of 4.0. According to ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, upon graduation, LaBarba will more than meet the course requirements with 50 hours of honors and Advanced Placement credits.

LaBarba holds a Technician class license that in 2005 led him to participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Communication (AREC) team at his high school; since 2007, he has served as president. The mobile Amateur Radio station at Wilson High School is the only high school emergency team in Long Beach. Hobart said that LaBarba took the "extra initiative" to display and demonstrate the mobile radio station at the district science fair, explaining to the public the role that Amateur Radio plays in community safety. LaBarba also spends considerable time coordinating Amateur Radio activities, including Field Day, with the local community.

In addition to his Amateur Radio activities, LaBarba is active in the Symphony and Symphonic Orchestra where he is seated as principal trombone. He also participates in the school speech and debate team. From an early age, LaBarba -- who will be attending Westmont College <http://www.westmont.edu/> in Santa Barbara, California -- has had a keen interest in medicine and intends to pursue a career in neurology.

The Goldfarb Scholarship is the result of a generous endowment from the late William Goldfarb, N2ITP. Before his death in 1997, Goldfarb set up a scholarship endowment of close to $1 million in memory of his parents, Albert and Dorothy Goldfarb. Awarded to one high school senior each year, the Goldfarb Scholarship assists the recipient to receive a four-year undergraduate degree in engineering or science or in the medical or business-related fields. The terms of reference of the generous Goldfarb scholarship award require that recipients demonstrate financial need and significant involvement with Amateur Radio, in addition to high academic performance. The seventh Goldfarb Scholarship winner, LaBarba continues the tradition of prior recipients, demonstrating superior academic performance, outstanding leadership and extraordinary Amateur Radio and community service.

More information on the Goldfarb Scholarship is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/arrlf/>. Applications for the Goldfarb Scholarship and other ARRL Foundation Scholarships are accepted each year beginning October 1 and ending February 1 for the academic year that starts the following August/September.

==> HAMS IN SOUTHEASTERN US PROVIDE SPOTTING ASSISTANCE TO NWS

As tornados swept through the southeastern part of the country on April 10, hams in Alabama, Tennessee, Arkansas and Georgia were on the air providing assistance to the National Weather Service (NWS) <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>.

In Alabama, hams in Madison, Shelby and Calhoun Counties activated SKYWARN Nets. According to Madison County Emergency Coordinator Rolf Goedhart, K4RGG storm spotters in that county were quite active on their Net. "At 12:37, at the request of the Madison County Emergency Operations Center and in response to a tornado watch, we formally activated the Madison County Emergency Net," Goedhart told the ARRL. "For about an hour and a half, there was virtually no dead air, either on the SKYWARN net or the Madison County Emergency Net. In fact, reports were flowing fast enough to make one pause, deciding when or even whether to call NCS with a report." Goedhart said that Hilton, at the Huntsville NWS amateur station, estimated handling more than 200 reports from the northern counties of the state in the nine hours that the Net was open.

In Tennessee, members of the Heart of Tennessee (HOT) ARES <http://www.hotares.com/> started an NWS SKYWARN Net at 12:18 PM as the storms approached. "Amateur operators relayed storm damage information to NWS for evaluation in determining tornado strength in the area," Rutherford County Emergency Coordinator Keith Miller, N9DGK, told the ARRL. "ARES members were monitoring the developing line of storms as watches and warnings were issued in the adjacent counties in the Middle Tennessee area."

Miller said that since primary communications for police departments, fire departments, Emergency Medical Service, County Sheriff or County Emergency Management Agency were not lost, backup communication was not required per the County EMA Director. His ARES group did not receive any requests to staff emergency shelters.

ARRL Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator Gene Clark, W4AYK, told the ARRL that hams in Gwinnett County activated a SKYWARN Net at 4:30 PM on April 10. "According to plan, a de-centralized Net Control function was used, with the Net Manager coordinating weather spotter reports to the NWS office in Peachtree City," he said. "Forty-one amateurs reported seven different reportable weather situations to the NWS."

In Newton County, Emergency Coordinator Charles Davis, WA4UJC, activated a weather Net at 8 PM. Ten operators from different areas of the county, as well as from adjacent counties, participated in the Net, reporting golf ball-sized hail and heavy rain. "When power went out for three hours due to a broken power pole on the west side of the county, the Net continued with hams using mobile transceivers and backup power," Clark explained. "The power outage caused us to lose repeater capabilities, so the hams relied on simplex. Using backup power, they contacted a linked repeater system and

maintained communication with the NWSï¿½until securing at 11:15 that night."

Arkansas hams were busy with the storm, too. At 7:24 PM CDT, the NWS issued a tornado warning for areas north of the Arkansas town of Mena in Polk County; at 8:01 PM CDT, the warning was extended into Mena. Nine minutes later, an EF-3 tornado struck the city, killing three people.

According to ARRL Arkansas Section Emergency Coordinator John Nordlund, AD5FU, members of the Central Arkansas UHF Group (CAUHF) <http://www.cauhf.org/weather/> provided real-time reports to the National Weather Service office in North Little Rock and to media outlets around the state. "The Group used the AR-Links SKYWARN net and the WarnIM system," Nordlund said. WarnIM is a SKYWARN instant messenger system serving to give those with or without ham radio access, or those who are in remote areas an additional means of communication in times of emergencies or severe weather events. Its features include live chat and access to updated radar data directly from the NWS.

"When the net closed at the end of the severe weather outbreak, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist John Robinson stated on the WarnIM system that the North Little Rock NWS office had never had so much timely storm report information before," Nordlund said.

Nordlund visited Mena on April 11 and noted that the local ham operators are participating in any emergency tasks that are assigned to them -- based on their training and certifications -- and are using simplex ham radio frequencies primarily to avoid additional loading of public safety frequencies as they carry out those assignments. "The damage path [of the tornado] is a striking example of the power of nature," he said. "The recovery effort of community volunteers is inspiring. This is another fine example of a local ham group that has their ducks lined up and on parade when it really counts."

==> FORUM SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED FOR 2009 DAYTON HAMVENTION

One of the many highlights at Dayton Hamvention is the myriad of educational and fun forums that take place the entire weekend at Hara Arena. The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has coordinated 45 unique programs that encompass nearly 80 hours of programs and activities for the thousands of people expected to attend these programs. Hamvention, the largest event of its kind, will be May 15-17 at Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. Please keep in mind that the schedule may change before Hamvention.

Friday, May 15
9:15-11:15 -- TAPR Digital Forum (Room 1)
9:15-10:15 -- Engineering Manuals (Room 2)
9:15-10:15 -- Kit Building (Room 3)
9:15-10:15 -- QRP (Room 5)
10:30-12 -- Drake Forum (Room 2)
10:30-12 - Teachers Workshop (Room 3)
10:30-11:30 -- ARRL Field Day (Room 5)
11:30-12:30 -- APRS Forum (Room 1)

11:45-12:45 -- QSL Cards (Room 5)
12:15-1:15 -- ARRL, The Doctor Is IN (Room 2)
12:15-2 -- Ham Radio and the Law (Room 3)
12:45-2:15 -- D-STAR Forum (Room 1)
1-2:15 -- Alternative Energy Forum (Room 5)
1:30-2:30 -- ARRL, Public Relations (Room 2)
2:15-3:30 -- Gordon West (Room 3)
2:30-5 -- Antenna Forum (Room 1)
2:30-5 -- Software defined Radio (Room 5)
2:45-3:45 -- Foxhunting Forum (Room 2)
3:45-5 -- Techniques of the Best Operators (Room 3)
4-5 -- County Hunting Forum (Room 2)

Saturday, May 16
9:15-11:15 -- Contesting Forum (Room 1)
9:15-10:15 -- SATERN Forum (Room 2)
9:15-10:15 - Lightning Grounding Forum (Room 3)
9:15-11:00 - VHF/UHF/Microwave Forum (Room 5)
10:30-11:30 -- ARRL Members Forum (Room 2)
10:30-11:45 -- Heil Sound (Room 3)
11:15-1:30 -- AMSAT Forum (Room 5)
11:30-1:15 -- Youth Forum (Room 1)
11:45-2 -- Newsline Town Meeting (Room 2)
12-1 -- RTTY Forum (Room 3)
1:15-2:15 -- ARRL, Digital Contesting (Room 3)
1:30-2:30 - ARRL Presents Richard Garriott, W5KWQ (Room 1)
1:45-3 -- SSTV Forum (Room 5)
2:15-3:15 -- FCC Forum (Room 2)
2:30-3:30 -- ARES Forum (Room 3)
2:45-5 -- DX Forum (Room 1)
3:15-5 -- MARS Forum (Room 5)
3:30-5 -- ATV Forum (Room 2)
3:45-5 -- Collins Forum (Room 3)

Sunday, May 17
9:15-10:15 -- Red Cross Forum (Room 1)
9:15-11 -- QCWA Forum (Room 2)
9:15-10:15 -- Volunteers and EmComm Forum (Room 3)
9:30-11:15 - Bicycle Mobile Forum (Room 5)
10:30-11:30 - When All Else Fails, South Carolina Is Ready (Room 1)

For more information on forums at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention, please visit
the Dayton Hamvention Web site <http://hamvention.org/forums.php>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun is hot on my neck as I observe" Cook, K7RA, this week reports:
Still no sunspots, and again we saw a prediction for slightly higher solar
flux slip away. Sunspot numbers for April 9-15 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0
with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.1, 69.4, 69.3, 69.3, 68.4, 69.4 and
69.4 with a mean of 69.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 12, 8, 9, 8,
4, 2 and 3 with a mean of 6.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 9,

6, 7, 4, 3, 1 and 2 with a mean of 4.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Edna St Vincent Millay's "Spring" <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=173994>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is on April 17. Be sure to check out the Holyland DX Contest, the TARA Skirmish Digital Prefix Contest, the ES Open HF Championship and the Feld Hell Sprint on April 18. The Michigan QSO Party, the Ontario QSO Party and the YU DX Contest are April 18-19. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is April 20. The SKCC Sprint and the 432 MHz Spring Sprint are April 22 (the 432 MHz Sprint is local time). Look for another NCCC Sprint Ladder next week on April 24. The Florida QSO Party, the Nebraska QSO Party and the SP DX RTTY Contest are all on April 25-26. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 3, 2009 for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 15, 2009: Antenna Modeling and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News April 24: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, April 24. The ARRL Letter will be distributed that day. The ARRL Audio News will return for May 1 and 8, but will be on hiatus on May 15 due to the Dayton Hamvention. The Audio News will resume regular distribution on May 22.

* Italy Discontinues HF Earthquake Net: On April 10, Italy's Dipartimento della Protezione Civile announced they had closed down all organized emergency communications support on HF frequencies that had been set up after the April 6 earthquake that struck the town of L'Aquila. The ARRL reported that two HF frequencies -- 7045 and 3640 kHz -- were being kept clear of regular traffic so that they could be utilized for any communications support needed in the aftermath of the quake <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/06/10757/?nc=1>. "There do not appear to be any other emergency groups using [7045 kHz]," said IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB, "so it is appropriate to return it to normal use and let normal amateur procedures apply: Listen before transmitting, and if you hear any station passing emergency traffic, leave the frequency clear and avoid causing interference." Mossop said that a large number of Amateur Radio responders are st ill present from the different emergency communications groups in the country.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!): letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make

selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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132. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-22 06:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1240380001@panix.com>
Source record: 2142
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

133. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-22 06:05:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1240380301@panix.com>
Source record: 2143
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
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The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

134. BPSK software?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-22 22:59:23 UTC
From: K0HB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <4788494C434440CC923FA3B26658772E@BigGuyII>
Source record: 2144

I've been on the road since the first of the year, so no chance to chase the Triple Play award.

Now that I'm home, it looks like the best way to capture the "Digital" play is via BPSK31.

I have DigiPan Rev 2.0 installed, and the "operating" side of it seems excellent, but its "logging" facility is awkward.

What else is out there which has a little more seamless logging capability. (I need it to spit out an ADIF which TQSL will sign and send to LoTW.)

73, de Hans, K0HB

135. Re: BPSK software?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-23 00:50:27 UTC
From: mikea <mikea@mikea.ath.cx>
Message-ID: <jjq4c6-gkf2.ln1@mikea.ath.cx>
Source record: 2145

K0HB <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in <4788494C434440CC923FA3B26658772E@BigGuyII>:
> I've been on the road since the first of the year, so no chance to chase
> the Triple Play award.
>
> Now that I'm home, it looks like the best way to capture the "Digital"
> play is via BPSK31.
>
> I have DigiPan Rev 2.0 installed, and the "operating" side of it seems
> excellent, but its "logging" facility is awkward.
>
> What else is out there which has a little more seamless logging
> capability. (I need it to spit out an ADIF which TQSL will sign and
> send to LoTW.)
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB

Try MixW. The test version is free; the non-expiring license is not very
much. It does a lot more than just BPSK31, and there are plug-ins
available for yet more modes. I quite like Olivia.

I think it will build an ADIF ready to be signed and sent to LotW.

--
Mike Andrews, W5EGO
mikea@mikea.ath.cx
Tired old sysadmin

136. Re: BPSK software?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-23 02:20:50 UTC
From: Jim Anderson <ka9vhg@arrl.net>
Message-ID: <dMOHl.81787$TD1.32300@newsfe18.iad>
Source record: 2146

K0HB wrote:
> I've been on the road since the first of the year, so no chance to chase
> the Triple Play award.
>
> Now that I'm home, it looks like the best way to capture the "Digital"
> play is via BPSK31.
>
> I have DigiPan Rev 2.0 installed, and the "operating" side of it seems
> excellent, but its "logging" facility is awkward.
>
> What else is out there which has a little more seamless logging
> capability. (I need it to spit out an ADIF which TQSL will sign and
> send to LoTW.)
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
>

Hello, Hans.

For Windows machines, my favorite is Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) with its companion program Digital Master 780. I find the log does everything I need. For Linux machines, my preference is Fldigi. The log does not have all the features of Ham Radio Deluxe but it does create ADIF files. Fldigi is also available for Windows machines but I've selected HRD for those.

Both are free downloads and excellent digital mode performers with many capabilities beyond BPSK31.

Here's the URLs to download the software:

HRD http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/

Fldigi http://www.w1hkj.com/Fldigi.html

73, and good luck chasing the Triple Play!

Jim, KA9VHG

137. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-24 14:57:01 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <19850393.1240581168313.JavaMail.root@mswamui-thinleaf.atl.sa.earthlink.net>
Source record: 2147
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1654 with a release date of Friday, April 24th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1. The following is a Q-S-T. South Africa proposes a major increase in the fee to get or renew a ham radio license, the 70 centimeter band now seems safe down-under. NASA says the sun is kind of spotless and a big fine against an unlicensed broadcaster in Milwaukee. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1654 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)
**

WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICA PROPOSES LARGE HAM LICENSE FEE INCREASE

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa has published some far-reaching proposals to the restructure of license fees in that nation. A major increase for a ham license is included. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has the details:

--

The licensing authority better known by the acronym ICASA proposed that fees for an amateur radio license be increased to 120 South African Rand or $1 2.50 per year. This from the current fee of 27 Rand or $2.80.

Also, to reduce the administrative burden on the regulatory agency the fees would be payable for a period of 5 or 10 years in advance. This means that a South African ham renewing his or her license would have to pay about $ 52 for a five year license or about $85 for a ten year ticket.

In addition, the fees for beacons, change of callsign, guest and special event licenses, repeater stations including radio links, packet radio digipeaters and bulletin boards would all be increased to the new minimum yearly fee. This fee would also apply to experimental stations for weather reception and retransmission and listener only licenses as well.

Reaction has been swift from the South African Radio League. At a Strategic Council meeting the SARL reviewed the draft fees and new structure. It says that it will be filing in opposition well in time before the comment cutoff deadline. The Council's view is that while it understands that the current fee of $2.80 a year is due for revision, the proposed minimum fee represents an excessive increase

and that paying five years or ten in advance should be by choice and not compulsory.

--

For its part ICASA says the spectrum fees are not intended to raise extra revenue for the national treasury. However it notes that there is a general principle that the application and annual fees in total should at least cover the cost of spectrum management and monitoring. (SARL)

**

RESTRUCTURING: 70 CM APPEARS SAFE DOWN-UNDER

The threat to 70 centimeter ham radio operations down-under appear to have ceased. This as the Australian Communications Authority indicates that its current review of 400 MHz and above spectrum no longer includes the amateur band 430 to 450 MHz.

This time last year the ACMA was seeking comments on other users being given access to the sub-bands 430 to 440 and 440 to 450 MHz. Now the regulatory agency says that 430- to 440 MHz is used for defense radar and the amateur services including amateur satellites,. This the authority says is in line with internationally harmonized allocations. It also says that its analysis of 440 to 450 MHz has led it to conclude that there is no space for additional use of this band for the land mobile service. (WIA News)

**

THE SOLAR CYCLE: NASA CALLS IT A SPOTLESS SUN

The lack of High Frequency propagation could continue. This, as NASA has announced that the sun has plunged into the deepest solar minimum in nearly a century.

According to the space agency, Sunspots have all but vanished and consequently the sun has become very quiet. It notes that in 2008, the sun had no spots 73% of the time,. That was a 95-year low. Now, in 2009, sunspots are even more scarce, with the "spotless rate" jumping to 87%. How long this downward sunspot spiral will continue is unknown. (Spaceweather)

**

RADIO STATS: MORSE EXCEEDS SSB IN 2008 CQ WORLD WIDE DX CONTESTS

Even with the poor propagation, more than 10,000 logs have been submitted f or the 2008 running CQ World Wide DX Contest. This, according to Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST, who says that's a new record for the event.

But here's the real surprise for those who think that Morse is dead or dying. Cox reports that the number of CW logs have exceeded the

number of phone logs for the first time in more than 20 years. A total of 5013 SSB logs and 5272 CW logs submitted.

SSB results of the 2008 CQWW Contest will be published in the August 2009 issue of CQ magazine with the CW results in the September issue. (CQ)

**

ENFORCEMENT: ALLEGED UNLICENSED BROADCASTER FINED $10000 BY THE FCC

Federal Communications Commission has affirmed a $10,000 fine issued against Steven A. Skalecki of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This for allegedly operating an unlicensed broadcast station and failing to heed FCC warnings to take it off the air. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the rest of the story:

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The story goes back to March 25, 2006. That's when FCC agents observed a radio station broadcasting on 92.9 MHz and located that the station was operating from a single family residence in Milwaukee and that Skalecki lived there. The agents took field strength measurements and determined that the signals being broadcast exceeded the limits for operation under Part 15 of the Commission's Rules and therefore required a license. An agent searched Commission databases and found no evidence of a Commission authorization for this operation on 92.9 MHz in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Later that day, the agents knocked on the front door but there was no response. Before leaving they wrote up a Notice of Unauthorized Operation and left it between the inner and outer doors. It directed Skalecki to terminate operation of the unlicensed station immediately. As a follow-up the FCC sent a registered letter to Skalecki with the same demand. The return receipt from the U.S. Postal Service shows that Skalecki signed for and received the notice on April 24, 2006.

Then on May 6th Commission agents again traced the broadcasts on 92.9 MHz to Skalecki's residence. They again tried to talk with those in the home but received no response.

On May 10th, the Chicago office received a response to the a Notice of Unauthorized Operation issued to Skalecki. In it he denied having any broadcast equipment and also stated that no local broadcasts can be heard on 92.9 MHz. Skalecki also acknowledged receipt of the notice left in the front storm door by Commission Agents on March 25th.

On March 1st, 14th, 24th as well as May 28th of 2007 Commission agents again traced the broadcasts on 92.9 MHz to Skalecki's home. On December 14, 2007, the Chicago Field Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Skalecki in the amount of $10,000 for operating radio transmitting equipment on the frequency 92.9 MHz without a license. In his response to the proposed fine Skalecki again denied operating an unlicensed station. He did admit that he

operated a weather monitoring station from that property, but claimed that the unlicensed broadcast station was operating from another nearby residence on which several antennas are located.

On March 13th, the FCC rendered its decision on Skalecki response. It said that it would not cancel the proposed forfeiture based on Skalecki's claim that he was not operating an unlicensed broadcast station from his home. It said that only evidence Skalecki provided in support of his claim is a list of nine dates on which he states he observed a station operating on 92.9 MHz from a nearby residence but the FCC countered that it had determined the signals were coming from Skalecki home on those dates.

The FCC also rejected Skalecki's claim that it could not assess a forfeiture because agents were unable to conduct an inspection. The FCC says that whether or not agents were able to inspect the station does not affect its determination here that Skalecki violated Section 301 of the Act based on the direction finding evidence collected by its agents. It said that even if he did not personally operate t e station that Skalecki is responsible for its unlicensed operation because he provided the facilities used in its operation. As such, he is required to pay the fine.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

The FCC gave Skalecki the customary 30 days from the date it issued its forfeiture order for him to pay the $10,000 fine. He also has the option of filing an appeal. (FCC)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the VE6AFP and VE6JNT repeaters serving Edmonton, Alberta Canada

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: COMMERCIAL RADIO OPERATOR LICENSE RENEWALS

The FCC says that holders of certain commercial radio operator licenses are no longer required to file renewal applications. Specifically, it extended the terms of GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses, Restricted GMDSS Radio Operator's Licenses, GMDSS Radio Maintainer's Licenses and several other classes to the lifetime of the holder.

Unaffected by the change are holders of General Radiotelephone Operator Licenses, Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permits, and

Restricted Radiotelephone Operator Permits for Limited Use. All of these are already valid for the lifetime of the license holder. More details are at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-658A1.doc (CGC, FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC SUSPENDS THREE COMMERCIAL RADIOTELEGRAPH LICENSES

Three people the FCC says did not follow the rules in getting their commercial radiotelegraph licenses have had them suspended. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has the details:

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The FCC has suspended the Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate held by Chicago residents Ahmaad D. Brunson, Todd C. Robinson and Jason C. Robinson. This after an investigation by the regulatory agency found that the three may have obtained their certificates by fraudulent means.

All three filed applications for a Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate on February 24, 2004. The applications were returned because none were accompanied by a Proof of Passing Certificate. They then filed amended applications with what appeared to be a Proof of Passing Certificate signed by three examiners associated with National Radio Examiners. Each certificate documented the successful completion of Written Elements 5 and 6 and Telegraphy Elements 1 and 2 by each applicant. The FCC then granted each of the three a Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificate.

But based on subsequent developments, the FCC came to question the authenticity of the Proof of Passing Certificates. So the agency contacted National Radio Examiners and asked for clarification. After investigating the matter, National Radio Examiners informed the FCC that no examinations had been administered in Chicago by their examiners on March 27, 2004. They also confirmed that the signatures of the three examiners appearing in the Proof of Passing Certificates were inconsistent with the actual signatures on file. National Radio certificates also stated that the typeface used for serial numbers was different than theirs that the watermarks were missing. Based on what it had learned, the FCC wrote official Letters of Inquiry to Brunson and the two Robinsons asking that they explain the discrepancies. The letter to Brunson was returned marked undeliverable. Jason Robinson never responded. Only Todd Robinson filed a written response. In it he claimed never to have taken any radiotelegraphy exams proctored by the National Radio Examiners nor submitted an application to the FCC. After weighing the evidence the FCC has decided to suspend the Second Class Radiotelegraph Operator's Certificates of all three operators for the remainder of each license term unless each files a written request for a hearing within a fifteen-day period from receipt of the

Suspension Order. -- If any or all do file appeals the suspensions will be held in abeyance until the conclusion of the hearing.

(FCC) ** RADIO AND THE NET: BROADCAST RADIO HOLDING ITS OWN VS. THE WWW

According to a survey from American Media Services, Internet-only radio is gaining ground as a way to discover music. None the less, terrestrial broadcast radio is not loosing any audience to it.

In talking to 1,000 Americans by phone at the end of March, OmniTel personnel handling the survey found that 27 percent of those polled say they have listened to Internet-only radio on an Internet site. This includes 47 percent of young adults age 18 to 24 and about 34 percent of those under the age of 50.

But even as new media, such as Internet-only radio, continue to gain in popularity, regular radio is maintaining its audience. In the latest American Media Services survey, 73 percent said they are listening to broadcast radio about as much or more than they did five years ago. (RW)

**
TOWER ISSUE: A PROPOSED 1500 FOOT BROADCAST TOWER IN ILLINOIS

A proposed 1500 foot self supporting radio and television broadcast tower is polarizing some of the citizens of Clear Lake, Illinois.

BMB Communications Management is working to get approval to build the broadcast tower in the southeast corner of McHenry County College's main campus. The Oklahoma-based company says that it will pay $6 million dollars for the land at closing of the sale. It also would reward the college an additional $1 million dollars if the company manages to sell all five broadcast slots on the tower in the first five years of the agreement.

A local attorney who worked on getting zoning approval for a 405-foot FM radio tower, supports selling the land for the tower. He calls it a financial windfall for the college. On the other side is a commercial pilot who put five of his children through McHenry County College. He has expressed several safety concerns ranging from the safety of the students to the safety of local pilots.

John Maguire is the the co-owner of BMB Communications Management. He says that if its built, it would be one of the tallest towers of its kind in the world. (RW)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VE5SF APPOINTED TO CAC

Radio Amateurs of Canada has then chosen Sam Ferris, VE5SF, to replace David Shipman, VE7CFD as its representative on the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. Shipman had held that position for the past ten

years. Ferris is a well known Canadian contest enthusiast. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: KI6CUX NAMED ARRL GOLDFARB SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The ARRL Foundation Board of Directors selected Dean LaBarba, KI6CUX, of Long Beach, California, to be this year's recipient of its William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship. LaBarba will graduate from Woodrow Wilson High School this year with a GPA of 4.0. He holds a Technician class license and since 2007 has served as president of his school's Amateur Radio Emergency Communication team. After graduating high school he plans to attend Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. (ARRL)

**

With some words about Amateur Radio Newsline's finances here's our support fund administrator Andy Jaema, N6TCQ:

--

In the Merry Month of May of last year we heard via PayPal from Michael Scheliga, Daryl Stout, Scott Currier of Haverville, MA; Rory Shaffer-Roebling, NJ; Thomas Home- Takoma Park, MD; Murray Hunt-Odenton, MD; David Carter- Washington, D.C.; Jesse Lindley-Greensboro, NC; Robert McClintock, N3RZ I & KB3PHI in Franckville, PA; Robert Harlan- Mansfield, OH; Robert Mallory - KD8HXT, North Canton, OH; Paul Vinoski- Fisher, WV; Doug Papciak- Tucker, GA; James Drenthe in Galesburg, MI, who is a regular contributor and Wayne Strickland-W9BBB, Chicago.

Also from Illinois, John Leonard- W9JBL in De Kalb; Joseph Kratky-KA9KBU in Hickory Hills ; James Langsted- Golden, CO; Lee Dusbabek-WR7NV, Las Vegas; David Billeci- WA6UHA, San Francisco;

Also from California, Russell Williams- W6OHM in Latrobe; Matt Sturtz-Broomfield Roy Hepp-Carpinteria Frank Brand-Tujunga. And finally, and through the magic of PayPal, Mitchell Wolfson- DJ0QN, Unterschleissheim, Germany.

That was fun! Got to exercise my schprechen ze Deutch!

That's quite a list, but you have to remember that most of those contributions were on the order of $10-$20, and this was right after a major capital campaign.

It costs almost $1000 a month to gather the news and put these newscasts on the air. And right now, things are pretty grim. Please do what you can to keep these newscasts on the air by logging onto our website and going to our PayPal secure contribution link, or contacting us at our Arcadia support fund address given at the end of this newscast.

For now, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and thank you.

--

Thank you Andy. (ARNewsline Support Fund)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAMVENTION HAPPENINGS: FREE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT TICKETS OFFERED

The Dayton Hamvention has announced that high schoolers will be welcome guests at this years event. According to a posting on the Hamvention website, high school students can obtain a free ticket by filling out a form that's downloadable from the website and present it at the will call window to receive their student ticket. Teachers may order student tickets by making their request on school letterhead.

All persons over 12 years of age attending the Hamvention are required to have an admission ticket. Age 12 years and under are admitted free without a ticket if accompanied by a paid ticket holder. Full information on this Hamvention educational assistance program is on line at www dot hamvention dot org slash tickets dot php. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to the words 2009 Student Tickets.

Hamvention 2009 is slated for the weekend of May 15, 16 and 17 at its traditional home at the Hara Arena in suburban Dayton, Ohio. Its theme this year is the word DREAM. That stands for Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More. The Hamvention runs from May 15th to the 17th at the Hara Arena in suburban Dayton, Ohio. (Hamvention.org)

**

HAMVENTION HAPPENINGS: KIDS TO BE HONORED AT YOUTH FORUM

And another first for the Dayton Hamvention. Educator Carole Perry, WB2MGP, tells us that this year there will be a special ceremony to honor the speakers participating in her very popular Youth Forum. This ceremony is being made possible by ICOM America, MFJ Enterprises, the Radio Club of America , and the L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club. Carole says that they will be donating some very special gifts to each of her nine young speakers. There will also be door prizes for kids in the audience as well. The Dayton Hamvention Youth Forum is Saturday, May 16th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in Meeting Room 1. (WB2MGP)

**

HAMVENTION HAPPENINGS: ARRL AWARDS CARD CHECKING.

Still with Hamvention news, Bill Moore, NC1L, has announced that card checking will be done at the ARRL National Convention in Dayton during all operating hours of the convention Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Moore says that there are some important guidelines that will help make the card checking process run smoothly. You can find that information at www.arrl.org/blog/Century%20Club%20Awards (OPDX)

**

SOCIAL SCENE: SEVHFS CONFERENCE APRIL 24 - 25

And a reminder that the Southeastern VHF Society is again sponsoring its yearly conference which is this weekend April 24th and 25th in Charlotte, North Carolina. For more information about the conference and the fall sprints which the society also sponsors, go to www.svhfs.org on the World Wide Web. (SVHFS)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: COLLEGE RADIO TUNER FOR IPHONE

Now here's a new toy that might quickly be adapted for use in ham radio. Backbone Networks, a Web radio service provider, has developed software called the College Radio Tuner for use with the Apple iPhone and the iPod Touch. This is an application for streaming college-based radio stations that works in coordination with Backbone Networks and its partner, the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System and its IBS Student Radio Network.

The College Radio Tuner software is available for free from the Apple Store . The Intercollegiate Broadcasting System maintains the constantly updated station database. The player can provide information and art for currently playing stations, songs and provide a purchase link for the Apple iTunes store.

Now, if some enterprising ham could find a way to adapt this technology to monitor repeaters in a geographic area they too might be available to monitor from anywhere without the need to carry a separate H-T. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: WORK CONTINUES ON SUITSAT

In ham radio space related news, word that a SuitSat-2 team recently met in Phoenix, Arizona. Reports are that the group primarily worked on software development matters as well as some final coordination on the cabling and hardware.

The software team was able to run some integration tests and achieved the first radio frequency (RF) output of the system. During the testing, the team demonstrated the CW and voice message

transmissions. Work continues on the solar panel mounting.

The Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS group plans to have the SuitSat-2 hardware ready for delivery by September. (ANS)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: N6R - THE REAGAN FIELD DAY COMMEMORATIVE STATION

N6R commemorating the lives of President & Mrs. Ronald Reagan will again be operational for Field Day from the grounds of the President Ronald Reagan Presidential Library & Museum in Simi Valley, California. N6R will operate 1800 UTC on June 6th to 1900 UTC on June 28th using various modes on 80 meters through 10 Gigahertz. This will be the ninth year of Field Day operations from the Presidential Library. More is on-line at www.vcars.org (N6ZE)

**

DX

In DX, NK0S says that he is currently converting the paper logs of VQ9HB, to electronic format so they can be uploaded to Logbook to the World. After the logs are uploaded NK0S will act as the QSL Manager for card requests for VQ9HB's operation between December of 1989 and May of 1990.

KB4CRT will be active as from Monserrat as VP2MRT between June 12-19th. His operation will include CW, SSB, possibly PSK, and the June VHF Contest. Asian stations are suggested to look for him on 20 meters between 1200 and 1300 U-T-C. QSL via KB4CRT.

DU1UGZ has been in Dhaka Bangladesh since April 12th and will be there until about June 20th. His callsign is S21UGZ and is operating SSB and RTTY mainly on 80 and 40 meters with some activity on the other High Frequency bands including 12 and 17 meters. QSL as he directs on the air.

K7WZB, and K9WZB, will stay on from the Cayman Islands through May 6. They will sign ZF2ZB using SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK 31 on 160 through 6 meters. QSLs only direct to Garry Fisher, K9WZB.

Tunisian scout special event station TS1LYMC can be found working in CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK and SSTV 80 through 10 meters. It will be operational through April 30th. QSL only direct to TS1LYMC, 33 Rue Plaine Lune Borj Louzir, Ariana, 2073 Tunis, Tunisia.

DL2SBY and DF1SR will be active from Lichtenstein through May 4th on 80 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. There will also be some operation on 13 and 23 centimeters for weak signal E-M-E experiments as well. Two separate callsigns for this operation with DL2SBY portable HB0 for the High Frequency bands and DF1SR stroke HB0 used for E-M-E. QSL via DL2SBY, either direct or via the bureau.

Lastly, CT1FBF reports that the Portuguese ham radio national society has just concluded the installation of station CS5BLA which is the first multi-band beacon cluster in Portugal. Transmitters operate on 50.076, 144.410, 432.425 MHz and 1.296.825 MHz. QSN reports go to cs1rla <dot>arla <at> gmail <dot>com.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: IT THINKS IT'S A POLICE SCANNER

And finally this week the story of a toy broadcast band radio that thinks it's a VHF and UHF police scanner. Here's John Lego, VK3BUI.

--

The German powers that be are investigating a kids' miniature Mickey Mouse radio which apparently entertains nippers with police radio traffic.

The Chinese-made novelty came with issue 12 of Micky Maus magazine. Hamburg police confirmed: "We've received reports and detectives are finding out whether it's in violation of telecommunications law."

A representative of publisher insisted the radio had been "scrupulously tested at an institute for toy safety" and "should only be able to tune into normal radio stations".

The statement further offered a typically Teutonic solution to inadvertent Police snooping, ordering the magazine's readers: "The radio is exclusively designed for listening to music. Everything else is not allowed."

I'm John, VK3BUI.

--

Now, what was it that the late actor Brodrick Crawford used to say on the 1950's T-V series Highway Patrol? Oh yes: 2150, clear. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org. Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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138. The ARRL Letter, Vol. 28, No. 16 (Friday, April 24, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-24 20:30:19 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090424202948.CE831328CB@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2148
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 16
April 24, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

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Amateur Radio
* Boston Area Hams Provide Communications Support for Annual Marathon
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"Hints and Kinks"

Reminder: There will be no ARRL Audio News for Friday, April 24.

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<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> EMCOMM WORKSHOPS AT 2009 NATIONAL HURRICANE CONFERENCE FOCUS ON
AMATEUR RADIO

On April 6-10, Amateur Radio had its largest presence ever at the 2009
National Hurricane Conference in Austin, Texas
<http://www.hurricanemeeting.com/>. Representatives from the ARRL,
WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, the Amateur Radio Station at the
National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>, the
Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <http://www.hwn.org/> and VoIP Hurricane Net
(VoIPWXNet) <http://www.voipwx.net/> completed several presentations at
the conference as well as a presentation at the local Austin Amateur
Radio Club. According to ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response
Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, the workshops were very well attended with
more than triple the participation of prior conferences.
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"The Austin Amateur Radio Club, along with ARRL Field Organization Section and Division officials did an outstanding job of promoting the various presentations at the conference," Dura said. "It is these coordinated efforts at the local club and ARRL Section, Division and National levels that will allow us to propel forward with our efforts in emergency communications and train people, allowing us to become a more valuable asset to served agencies."

Assistant WX4NHC Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, thanked everyone who participated in the meeting "for making our NHC 2009 presentations and experience so successful and enjoyable. We had one of the largest attendances for the Amateur Radio workshop that I can remember."

Nearly 60 people attended the Amateur Radio Disaster Communications Workshop on the afternoon of April 7. WX4NHC Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, K4AG, and Ripoll made the first presentation of the workshop. Explaining the 29 year history of their work at the NHC and the importance of measured surface data and damage reports, the pair told how this knowledge allows hurricane specialists to make better forecasts. They also told some stories and showed videos from several of the most critical activations over the past few years. They discussed the importance of the reporting from all stations, stressing that they will take reports by any means in support of the mission to help save lives.

Director of Operations of the VoIP Hurricane Net Rob Macedo, KD1CY, gave a presentation on the VoIP Hurricane Net and the role it plays in gathering data for WX4NHC. He also explained how it also can be used to connect various National Weather Service forecast offices, as well as local and regional Emergency Operation Centers during hurricanes. Macedo also explained how the net is looking for more contacts within the affected area to connect to the net and more amateurs to relay data from local and regional nets in the affected area of hurricanes. "The VoIP Hurricane Net relays info to WX4NHC using any and all means of reliable information from all sources to give WX4NHC the most information possible from the surface during a hurricane," Macedo explained.

Macedo also presented a session on the International Radio Emergency Support Coalition (IRESC) <http://www.iresc.org/> and its role in providing translators and additional contacts in the affected area during hurricanes and other disasters. "This includes monitoring and translation of international media broadcasts and press releases that the NHC may not normally receive," he said. "The IRESC EchoLink conference is often connected to the VoIP Hurricane Net during hurricanes to support both the net and listen-only activity for stations outside of the affected area that want to monitor the VoIP Hurricane Net during hurricanes."

Assistant Net Manager of the Hurricane Watch Net Brad Pioveson, W9FX, gave a presentation on the HWN's 44 year history. Explaining that the HWN has been around longer than operations at WX4NHC, Pioveson described how in the days before WX4NHC, HWN ham radio operators -- using phones

and faxes -- passed information on tropical advisories to the NHC. He also detailed some potential changes at the HWN that will include not just the monitoring of their traditional 14.325 MHz frequency, but also branching out onto other bands.

"Given the extremely poor propagation that we've seen lately," Pioveson said, "we see the need for the HWN to expand its reach to other HF bands. The Maximum Usable Frequency simply doesn't allow for 20 meters to propagate as it has in the past. We need to scale our operations to other HF bands when propagation is poor so we can support stations in the affected area of a hurricane."

ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, explained how the Alabama section is preparing for an upcoming hurricane interoperability exercise, giving a breakdown of the Alabama Section by region. Sarratt explained that the focus of the exercise is a "worst case scenario hurricane" with cell phones rendered unusable during the hurricane exercise. He also gave a breakdown of the ARRL HQ disaster response mechanism, saying that all ARES members and leadership should recognize and observe the ARES Field Organization structure <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/>.

On the evening of April 7, the same presenters gave similar presentations to the Austin Amateur Radio Club meeting after a BBQ put on by the local club. West Gulf Division Director Dr David Woolweaver, K5RAV, was present for all the Tuesday workshops and the local club meeting. At the meeting, Woolweaver thanked everyone for their support of the conference workshops and for attending the club meeting. He also took the opportunity to announce that he was appointing Lee Cooper, W5LHC, president of the Austin Amateur Radio Club (AARC), as Assistant Director for Emergency Communications in the West Gulf Division. "This is a necessary appointment in our Division to address the importance of emergency communications," Woolweaver told the group.

On April 8, Dura and Macedo gave a workshop to emergency management officials and representatives of government agencies. The workshop focused on situational awareness and disaster intelligence, stressing its importance to Emergency Management and how it creates more opportunities to utilize Amateur Radio. The presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session relating to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. "Collecting and gathering data and sharing information and reporting during disasters is another way Amateur Radio can assist beyond the typical message handling," Dura said. "Monitoring critical infrastructure -- such as in the case of the Red River in North Dakota -- is an example, and these examples can be applied to hurricanes."

Macedo gave the audience several disaster intelligence examples used during hurricanes, as well as from his ARES and SKYWARN work in the ARRL's Eastern Massachusetts section: "On several occasions, SKYWARN spotters gave information to emergency management. This information, along with other data, helped emergency management officials to escalate their response in several recent disaster-related incidents. This model

can also be utilized during hurricanes."

During the closing session, Director of Safety Operations and Emergency Management for the City of Houston Arcadio Avalos asked several questions, starting a discussion on coordination and credentialing. "Based upon his experiences from Hurricane Ike last year, he said he understood the importance of Amateur Radio and wanted to assist in easing logistical issues for the next time this work is needed in his area," Dura said. "He will be assisting to ease those issues on the public safety side of things. He also took copious notes on how he could improve things on the Amateur Radio side. He mentioned that he viewed Amateur Radio as a 'huge asset' in this task and wanted to ensure that no coordination issues arise for next time so Amateur Radio support can be utilized even further and more efficiently."

All sessions were videotaped through the efforts of professional videographer and VoIP Hurricane Net Control Scheduler Jim Palmer, KB1KQW. Macedo said that the videos should be available the first part of May on the North Shore Radio Association (NSRA) Web site <http://www.nsradio.org/video>.

The 2010 National Hurricane Conference is scheduled for March 29-April 2 in Orlando, Florida.

==> BOSTON AREA HAMS PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR ANNUAL MARATHON

More than 250 Amateur Radio operators provided communication support for the 113th running of the Boston Marathon <http://www.bostonmarathon.com> on Monday, April 20, also known as Patriots' Day <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriots_Day>. With more than 26,000 official runners and 500,000 spectators along the 26 mile route, the marathon utilized amateurs at the starting line, along the course at each water and first aid station, and at the finish line.

"This is the largest public service event in New England in terms of the number of Amateur Radio operators required for a one-day event, and we can always use more hams to help us," said Marathon Amateur Radio Communications (MARC) <http://marc.mmra.org/marc/index.html> Course Coordinator Steve Schwarm, W3EVE. "We're glad that the weather was cool and the number of ambulance requests this year was lower than past years, where we had higher temperatures and more medical issues."

Even with the more temperate weather, MARC Finish Line Coordinator Paul Topolski, W1SEX, said the medical tents at the finish line were near capacity by mid-afternoon. "Hams provided communications, status and logistical issue updates between the medical tents to our finish line net control as needed," he said.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) was active with operations at the State Emergency Operations Center in Framingham, with their operations room acting as a Unified Command Center (UCC) for the marathon. RACES members staffed the communications room at the SEOC, and ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Mike Neilsen, W1MPN, staffed

the UCC. Neilson fed status reports on any issues along the marathon route into the operations room, as well as issues from the UCC to the operations room.

"This is the first time we've had an Amateur Radio Operator in the operations room of the UCC," said Massachusetts State RACES Radio Officer Tom Kinahan, N1CPE. "We have been coordinating with the Boston Marathon Net Control and the finish line communications in Boston to provide updates into our station and to our Amateur Radio operator in the UCC."

The Net Control center is located with a line-of-sight to the Boston area and to the entire 26 mile route in case simplex communication is required. More than a dozen repeaters were utilized to provide overlapping coverage to the marathon route. The Clay Center Amateur Radio Club, the Minuteman Repeater Association, the Framingham Amateur Radio Association and many other clubs in the New England area support the marathon operations.

With so many amateurs placed along the marathon route, ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, placed Eastern Massachusetts ARES on standby in case something went wrong along the marathon route, or a major incident occurred coincident with the marathon. "This is standard operating procedure for 'Marathon Monday'" he said. "We want our members to maintain a heightened state of awareness during the event."

Patriots' Day -- a state holiday in Massachusetts and Maine -- commemorates the anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, the first battles of the American Revolutionary War.

==> NWS AWARDS ARKANSAS HAM TOP HONOR

In late March, officials at the National Weather Service (NWS) office in Little Rock, Arkansas, awarded Brother Anselm Allen, WB5JLD, the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award for his service as a Cooperative Weather Observer <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/coop/>. Named for the third President of the United States -- who kept an almost unbroken series of weather records from 1776 to 1816 -- the award is the highest and most prestigious award bestowed on Cooperative Weather Observers; only five Jefferson Awards are conferred each year. Cooperative observers are trained by the NWS to provide temperature (air and soil), precipitation and river data on a daily basis.

In addition to Allen's outstanding support of the National Weather Service, he is also an Amateur Radio operator and is active on local nets. Allen is only the second observer to receive the Jefferson Award in the Little Rock County Warning Area <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/html/imgviewer1.php?pic=x73>.

The NWS has trained more than 11,000 people to take weather observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores and mountaintops, giving the NWS a true weather picture representative of

where people live, work and play. Formally created in 1890 under the Organic Act, the Cooperative Observer program has a twofold mission: To provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes; and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS.

Volunteer weather observers provide data that are invaluable in learning more about the floods, droughts, heat and cold waves. The data are also used in agricultural planning and assessment, engineering, environmental-impact assessment, utilities planning and litigation. Information gathered by Cooperative Observers plays a critical role in efforts to recognize and evaluate the extent of human impacts on climate from local to global scales. -- Information provided by the National Weather Service, Little Rock

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service that lets them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Twinkle like black stars in sunny skies" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: On Wednesday, April 22 we saw sunspot 1015 fade away, just as it was about to slip over our Sun's western limb. It emerged only briefly, late on April 21, and by Thursday it had disappeared. Sunspot numbers for April 16 through 22 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 11 with a mean of 1.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.9, 69.8, 69.9, 70.1, 69.8, 71, and 71.1 with a mean of 70.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 5, 8, 4, 4, 5 and 4 with a mean of 5.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 4, 8, 4, 3, 3 and 2 with a mean of 3.9. The outlook for the near term is more of the same, quiet conditions. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for April 24-30. The US Air Force and NOAA predict a nice quiet planetary A index of 5 until May

6-9, when they expect to see a planetary A index of 15, 8, 8 and 8. Sunspot numbers for April 16 through 22 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 11 with a mean of 1.6. 10.7 cm flux was 69.9, 69.8, 69.9, 70.1, 69.8, 71, and 71.1 with a mean of 70.2. Estimated planetary A indices were 6, 5, 8, 4, 4, 5 and 4 with a mean of 5.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 4, 8, 4, 3, 3 and 2 with a mean of 3.9.

For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Henry Davies' "April's Charms" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/april-s-charms/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the NCCC Sprint Ladder is April 24. The Florida QSO Party, the Nebraska QSO Party and the SP DX RTTY Contest are all on April 25-26. Look for another NCCC Sprint Ladder next week on May 1; the AGCW QRP/QRP Party is also May 1. The Microwave Spring Sprint is May 2 (local time), The MARAC QSO Party (both CW and SSB), the 10-10 International Spring Contest (both CW and digital), the 7th Call Area QSO Party, the Indiana QSO Party, the New England QSO Party and the ARI International DX Contest are all May 2-3. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 3, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, May 15, 2009: Antenna Modeling and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News for April 24: There will be no ARRL Audio News on Friday, April 24. The ARRL Audio News will return for May 1 and 8, but will be on hiatus on May 15 due to the Dayton Hamvention. The Audio News will resume regular distribution on May 22.

* Thomas Dick, KF2GC, Returns as Northern New York SM: Thomas Dick, KF2GC, of Saranac Lake, has returned to the office of Section Manager of Northern New York. He has taken the reins of the Northern New York Field Organization from Tom Valosin, WB2KLD, who had been Section Manager since 2007. When Valosin decided not to run for another term of office, Dick submitted his nomination petition to run for Section Manager; the open position was re-solicited in the January 2009 issue of QST. Since Dick's nomination was the only one received by the receipt deadline, he was declared elected and his term of office extends through December 31, 2010. Dick has several years of prior experience as a Section leader: He served as the Northern New York Section Manager from 2000-2006 and as Section Emergency Coordinator from 1998-2000.

* "Hints and Kinks": Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST. If we publish your hint, you will receive $20. Send your hints via e-mail to <h&k@arrl.org>; or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address. Items in "Hints and Kinks" have not been tested by QST or ARRL unless otherwise stated. Although we can't guarantee that hints published will work for every situation, QST makes every effort to screen for harmful information.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,

k1sfa@arrl.org
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bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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139. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-26 15:22:34 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <m2v7v4tfd8f0i8k6ootdc6ra22eu209hvg@4ax.com>
Source record: 2149
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

On Fri, 24 Apr 2009 10:57:01 EDT, "William M. Pasternak"
<newsline@ix.netcom.com> wrote:

>WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICA PROPOSES LARGE HAM LICENSE FEE INCREASE
> [snip]
>The licensing authority better known by the acronym ICASA proposed
>that fees for an amateur radio license be increased to 120 South
>African Rand or $1 2.50 per year. This from the current fee of 27
>Rand or $2.80.

Here in the U.S.A., our ham licenses are free of charge. (Except for
Vanity licenses.)

Do hams in most other countries pay yearly fees for their licenses?

Dick, AC7EL

140. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 00:44:54 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <75k1p0F16r3dtU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2150
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

In news:m2v7v4tfd8f0i8k6ootdc6ra22eu209hvg@4ax.com,
Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:
: On Fri, 24 Apr 2009 10:57:01 EDT, "William M. Pasternak"
: <newsline@ix.netcom.com> wrote:
:
: >WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICA PROPOSES LARGE HAM LICENSE FEE INCREASE
: > [snip]
: >The licensing authority better known by the acronym ICASA proposed
: >that fees for an amateur radio license be increased to 120 South
: >African Rand or $1 2.50 per year. This from the current fee of 27
: >Rand or $2.80.
:
: Here in the U.S.A., our ham licenses are free of charge. (Except for
: Vanity licenses.)
:
: Do hams in most other countries pay yearly fees for their licenses?
:
: Dick, AC7EL

It's been free here in the UK for a couple of years, previously it was ï¿½15
per year. I suspect it was costing them more to collect the fee than to
administer the system..!

73 Ivor G6URP

141. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 05:47:21 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <a5hav4d6mcmmfj9vs8odo8vpvsh4drhq2v@4ax.com>
Source record: 2051
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

On Sun, 26 Apr 2009 20:44:54 EDT, "Ivor Jones"
<ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote:

>In news:m2v7v4tfd8f0i8k6ootdc6ra22eu209hvg@4ax.com,
>Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com> typed, for some strange, unexplain
ed
>reason:
>: On Fri, 24 Apr 2009 10:57:01 EDT, "William M. Pasternak"
>: <newsline@ix.netcom.com> wrote:
>:
>: >WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICA PROPOSES LARGE HAM LICENSE FEE INCREASE
>: > [snip]
>: >The licensing authority better known by the acronym ICASA proposed
>: >that fees for an amateur radio license be increased to 120 South
>: >African Rand or $1 2.50 per year. This from the current fee of 27
>: >Rand or $2.80.
>:
>: Here in the U.S.A., our ham licenses are free of charge. (Except for
>: Vanity licenses.)
>:
>: Do hams in most other countries pay yearly fees for their licenses?
>:
>: Dick, AC7EL
>
>It's been free here in the UK for a couple of years, previously it was ï¿½
15
>per year. I suspect it was costing them more to collect the fee than to
>administer the system..!
>
>73 Ivor G6URP

Long-time USA hams please correct me on this if I'm wrong, but ...
I seem to remember that 20 or 30 years ago (long before I became a
ham), there was a fee for ham licenses. But Congress (our national
legislature) passed a law to make the FCC justify the fees charged for
all of their licenses. The FCC gave up figuring out what it could
legally charge us hams, and decided that our license would be free.

Dick, AC7EL

142. Google Logo in Morse Code

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 05:55:35 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <4khav4phanhfuqsmhgjmua0875c6d18sno@4ax.com>
Source record: 2052

Today (April 27, 2009), on http://www.google.com the Google logo is in
Morse Code. Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791. Neat!

143. Re: Google Logo in Morse Code

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 12:18:31 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <49f55457$0$1618$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 2053

In article <4khav4phanhfuqsmhgjmua0875c6d18sno@4ax.com>,
Richard <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:
>Today (April 27, 2009), on http://www.google.com the Google logo is in
>Morse Code. Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791. Neat!

That's very cute! (And colorful!) Thanks for the heads-up on
it, Richard. That's one drawback of having a Google search
field built into Firefox--I rarely go to their home page any
more, so I miss a lot of their special logos. Every so often,
I view the archive to see what I've missed.

Patty

144. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 14:29:27 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <75lpftF18krbbU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2054

Richard wrote:

> Long-time USA hams please correct me on this if I'm wrong, but ...
> I seem to remember that 20 or 30 years ago (long before I became a
> ham), there was a fee for ham licenses.

Yes, I remember paying a nominal fee at issue time and renewal time, but I no longer remember what it was. Contrary to the mantra of "you can find anything you want on the Internet," I couldn't locate any history on this issue. I suspect that it was a case of the fee being insufficient to cover the cost of collecting it because it didn't make an impression on a teenage payer.

For interest of our international readers, I will mention that the volunteer examiners who administer exams are authorized to charge a nominal fee to cover their expenses.

73, Steve KB9X

145. HamCon Colorado

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 15:02:35 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090427130357.06FE730C3C@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2055
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

I was asked to forward this to hams in Nebraska. It looks like a great event.
****

Dear Friends,

The HamCon Colorado 2009 committee would be grateful if you would forward this to your club members, and other hams and non-yet-hams that might be interested.

After 18 months of planning and preparation, HamCon Colorado 2009, the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention is almost upon us! The big event will happen May 29-31, 2009 in gorgeous Estes Park, CO. Many of you are already registered and have your accommodations booked.

If you've not already made your HamCon Colorado 2009 reservation, or your hotel room reservation, time is running out for your best opportunities!

On April 28th, our host hotel (The Holiday Inn in Estes Park) will release the remaining rooms blocked for HamCon Colorado to general public sales. Our amazing special rate of $89/night will still be good, but rooms will be on a space-available basis only. If you'd like to stay at the Holiday Inn, wait no longer! Call them today (Sunday, April 26th) or tomorrow (Monday, April 27th) to avoid disappointment. Call the hotel directly at (800) 803-7837 or (970) 586-2332, and mention that you're with HamCon Colorado to get our preferred rate.

Then, be sure to get your HamCon Colorado registration in too! You can register on-line at www.HamConColorado.org, or you can fill out a printed form and mail it in. But, our discounted $15 advanced registration ends on May 14th. After that, registration will be $20. Save some bucks, get your HamCon Colorado reservation in soon!

Here are some current highlights:

a. Here is our major speaker lineup!

Friday, May 29th Evening

Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director
Harold Kramer, W1JB, ARRL Chief Operating Officer and QST Publisher

Saturday, May 30th Daytime

Mike Gruber, W1MG, ARRL EMC Engineer and contributor to "The Doctor Is IN" QST column

Saturday, May 30th Luncheon

Cheryl Muhr, N&#65533;WBV, YL columnist for WorldRadio Online (formerly WorldRadio Magazine)
Saturday, May 30th BanquetRick Roderick, K5UR, ARRL Vice President

Sunday, May 31st Breakfast

Gordon Hardman, W&#65533;RUN, Desecheo Island 2009 DXpedition, Peter I DXpedition (3Y&#65533;X) and Alpha Radio Products

b. We've got more than 30 fantastic technical sessions and forums scheduled for Saturday (all day) and Sunday (morning). Check out the evolving schedule at the following URL: http://www.hamconcolorado.org/hamcon_conference_session_grid.htm.

c. You can take the mic or key in a massive W1AW/0 operation which includes 3 HF stations, a contest-suite station, VHF, D-Star and more!

d. Stop by our own "Doctor Is In" booth for some solid technical advice. You'll be "treated" by one of the contributors to QST's "The Doctor is In" column, Mike Gruber, W1MG, or by one of our skilled ARRL Colorado Section Technical Specialists.

e. Talk with manufacturers and exhibitors! Take advantage of some special HamCon Colorado deals from them too! Take a look at the rapidly growing list here: http://www.hamconcolorado.org/exhibitors.htm.

f. Place a bid in our silent auction on one of several factory refurbished and guaranteed radios from a top manufacturer! Prices like these, for a just-like-new radio will be super hard to beat.

g. We'll have lots of prizes, including a new HF radio grand prize, door-prizes at sessions, and hourly prize drawings. A quickly expanding list of prize donors can be found here: http://www.hamconcolorado.org/donors.htm. We'll announce our major prize radios soon! Watch www.HamConColorado.org for details!

h. We'll also have a VE session where you can test for your amateur radio license or an upgrade, a CW Pileup contest, an hilarious QLF contest, a transmitter foxhunt, a Wouff-Hong ceremony and much, much more.

You just don't want to miss this one, especially since the next HamCon Colorado won't happen until 2013!

Don't be disappointed! Sign up now, and let us know if you've got any questions or comments!

73,

Steve Williams, K&#65533;SRW
Chairman, HamCon Colorado
k0srw@arrl.net or k0srw@earthlink.net
719-337-8103

Steve Williams, K0SRW
Colorado Springs, CO
k0srw@earthlink.net
http://www.k0srw.com

HamCon Colorado 2009, the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention, is
May 29-31, 2009 in Estes Park, CO. Visit http://www.HamConColorado.org
for details.

****
73,
Art K0AIZ

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
---

146. Re: Google Logo in Morse Code

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 17:46:28 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gt4qi3$e00$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2056

"Patty Winter" <patty1@wintertime.com> wrote in message
news:49f55457$0$1618$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net...
>
> In article <4khav4phanhfuqsmhgjmua0875c6d18sno@4ax.com>,
> Richard <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:
>>Today (April 27, 2009), on http://www.google.com the Google logo is in
>>Morse Code. Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791. Neat!
>
> That's very cute! (And colorful!) Thanks for the heads-up on
> it, Richard. That's one drawback of having a Google search
> field built into Firefox--I rarely go to their home page any
> more, so I miss a lot of their special logos. Every so often,
> I view the archive to see what I've missed.
>
>
> Patty
>

I saw it too and thought it was pretty cute.

Dee, N8UZE

147. Re: Google Logo in Morse Code

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 18:07:46 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <ebsbv4dvmrqngaco34lva9a33tgh560dnm@4ax.com>
Source record: 2057

On Mon, 27 Apr 2009 08:18:31 EDT, Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
wrote:

>
>In article <4khav4phanhfuqsmhgjmua0875c6d18sno@4ax.com>,
>Richard <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:
>>Today (April 27, 2009), on http://www.google.com the Google logo is in
>>Morse Code. Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791. Neat!
>
>That's very cute! (And colorful!) Thanks for the heads-up on
>it, Richard. That's one drawback of having a Google search
>field built into Firefox--I rarely go to their home page any
>more, so I miss a lot of their special logos. Every so often,
>I view the archive to see what I've missed.

You can set your home page in Firefox to any page you wish.
Browse to the page you want. Then lick on:
Tools >> Options >> Main >> Use Current Pages

At one time, I set to an HTML page on my own computer.

Dick, AC7EL

148. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 19:27:50 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <h5-dnY8J_oDMYmjUnZ2dnUVZ_rednZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2058

"Richard" wrote

Long-time USA hams please correct me on this if I'm wrong, but ...
I seem to remember that 20 or 30 years ago (long before I became a
ham), there was a fee for ham licenses.

In 1963 (and earlier, I assume) it was free. Beginning in 1964 it became $4.
My friend and I studied hard for the General and passed it late in December
1963 -- to avoid the fee.

Howard

149. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 20:27:07 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <odoJl.932$fy.201@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2059

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:75lpftF18krbbU1@mid.individual.net...
> Richard wrote:
>
> > Long-time USA hams please correct me on this if I'm wrong, but ...
> > I seem to remember that 20 or 30 years ago (long before I became a
> > ham), there was a fee for ham licenses.
>
> Yes, I remember paying a nominal fee at issue time and renewal time, but
> I no longer remember what it was. Contrary to the mantra of "you can
> find anything you want on the Internet," I couldn't locate any history
> on this issue. I suspect that it was a case of the fee being
> insufficient to cover the cost of collecting it because it didn't make
> an impression on a teenage payer.
>
> For interest of our international readers, I will mention that the
> volunteer examiners who administer exams are authorized to charge a
> nominal fee to cover their expenses.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X

I seem to remember something like $14 in the 70's, administered by regular
staff at the field office. Same for commercial license tests. Novice was
free as it was administered by a volunteer Extra class holder so FCC just
handled the paper.
>

150. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 21:26:32 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gt567e026kt@news4.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2060
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

Richard wrote:
> Long-time USA hams please correct me on this if I'm wrong, but ...
> I seem to remember that 20 or 30 years ago (long before I became a
> ham), there was a fee for ham licenses. But Congress (our national
> legislature) passed a law to make the FCC justify the fees charged for
> all of their licenses. The FCC gave up figuring out what it could
> legally charge us hams, and decided that our license would be free.

It was dropped as a "collateral effect" of Congress telling the
FCC to "charge according to worth."

Obviously a TV station license is worth a lot. Local broadcast
radios stations are worth a lot. Business band licenses such as
for tow trucks aren't as much.

Then there's Amateur Radio. How do you assign a value to something
that is specifically called out as having "no pecuniary interest"?

And they dropped the CB fees as well for similar reasons.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

151. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1654 - April 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 22:10:16 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <7fab23bf-fb6a-4fbb-8704-4980afad13c6@y10g2000prc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2061

On Apr 27, 4:27 pm, "JB" <nos...@goofball.net> wrote:
> I seem to remember something like $14 in the 70's, administered by regula
r
> staff at the field office.

The maximum fee for the license itself was $4 from 1964 to 1970, $9
from 1970 to 1975, and $4 from 1975 to 1977.

> Novice was
> free as it was administered by a volunteer Extra class holder so FCC just
> handled the paper.

The volunteer examiner for the Novice and Technician license did not
have to be an Extra. Conditional, General, and Advanced amateurs could
administer the tests.

73 de Jim, N2EY

>
> - Hide quoted text -
>
> - Show quoted text -- Hide quoted text -
>
> - Show quoted text -

152. History of US Amateur License Fees

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-27 22:10:51 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <8b9ffefe-c7b2-46c7-97e3-050d3123b6fb@p6g2000pre.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2062

Here's the history before the VE system. The fees applied to all
licenses except Novice, which was free. IIRC, the fee was also
required to take the test, pass or fail.

On March 16, 1964, the FCC instituted the following fee schedule:

New/Renewed/Modified-and-renewed amateur licenses: $4
Modified without renewal: $2
Special call: $20

On July 1, 1970, the FCC raised prices:

New/Renewed/Modified-and-renewed amateur licenses: $9
Modified without renewal: $4
Special call: $25

On March 1, 1975, the FCC lowered prices:

New/Renewed/Modified-and-renewed amateur licenses: $4
Modified without renewal: $3
Duplicate license: $2
Special call: $25

On January 1, 1977, FCC suspended all fees for US amateur licenses.
They have been free ever since. (Note that a vanity call fee is a fee
for the callsign, not the license, and the VE fee is a fee for the
test, not the license).

$9 might not sound like a lot of money, but according to the Westegg
inflation calculator, $9 in 1970 equates to $49.37 in 2008 money. A
considerable sum to a teenage amateur like myself!

73 de Jim, N2EY

153. Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-28 15:37:42 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <5ec72bad-6516-4770-87d3-69a0cd3b68d2@w31g2000prd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2063

Hi,

Seems that the ARRL (or at least the local arm of it in Texas) has managed to get two bills introduced that would provide relief from CC&Rs (i.e. the Home Owners Association rules). Seems to me that it is very likely that these two bills will die in committee, but it is an interesting approach. They even have a web page:

http://www.westgulflegislation.org/

where they are keeping the status of things fairly up to date. But this is just the state of Texas.

Is there any other states who are trying this kind of thing? If so what is the status?

We had at least two attempts to do this at the Federal level in the past. Anybody know what the status is at the Federal level? I know the past bills died in committee, but is anybody trying to get another started with this congress?

Finally, given that the majority of FCC commissioners are changing, is there any hope of getting them to reverse their PRB-1 decision not to tamper with private contracts for ham radio antennas? They have soundly rejected past attempts to do this, but could the change in commissioners make a difference here?

Personally I find that I am extremely limited by my local HOA and their enforcement of the CC&R's. They are VERY picky (namely because the president of the board shares part of my back fence and can see almost my whole back yard) about any antennas or anything that could be used as an antenna, including flag poles, bird houses, clothes lines and things like that. They even specifically restrict TV antennas in their regulations although I'm pretty sure their rules are invalid due to the FCC OTARD regulations.

-= Bob =-

154. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-29 00:51:52 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <tvednbEnNZoDA2rUnZ2dnUVZ_oednZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2064

"KC4UAI" wrote

> Is there any other states who are trying this kind of thing? If so
> what is the status?

Arizona has a bill en route, instigated by a fellow who wants to put up a tower at his HOA restricted home. I think it made it through some committee, but haven't heard about it for a while now. I'm moving away, so I don't care anymore. ;-)

> Personally I find that I am extremely limited by my local HOA and
> their enforcement of the CC&R's. They are VERY picky (namely because
> the president of the board shares part of my back fence and can see
> almost my whole back yard) about any antennas or anything that could
> be used as an antenna, including flag poles, bird houses, clothes
> lines and things like that. They even specifically restrict TV
> antennas in their regulations although I'm pretty sure their rules are
> invalid due to the FCC OTARD regulations.

When ham radio antennas are mentioned, I suspect the thought that typically comes up is "a tower." Hams in HOA communities shouldn't get greedy. Yours is overly restrictive, yes, and of course they are not allowed to prevent tv antennas. There are many alternatives to towers and beams. Many dipoles are pretty invisible, and my MFJ Hi-Q loop antenna mounted vertically on a 5' mast looks more like a yard sculpture than an antenna. It is very effective, though the two available models are restricted to 10-30m or 15-40m. I live in an HOA community, and when I had it installed it was very visible from the incoming main street to the community.

Howard N7SO

155. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-29 04:12:50 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <p9lev4dknau3175pualtk9o3podai13m1i@4ax.com>
Source record: 2065

On Tue, 28 Apr 2009 11:37:42 EDT, KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote:

>
>Hi,
>
>Seems that the ARRL (or at least the local arm of it in Texas) has
>managed to get two bills introduced that would provide relief from
>CC&Rs (i.e. the Home Owners Association rules).
> [snip]
>Is there any other states who are trying this kind of thing? If so
>what is the status?

In 2001 in Nevada, Assembly Bill AB 61, as introduced, incorporated PRB-1 and also overrode CC&R bans on amateur antennas. The CC&R portion was very controversial, and fought by many non-ham interests. It was decided to drop the CC&R part, so that the PRB-1 part could pass. I have not heard of any future attempts to override CC&R's in Nevada.

For a history of AB 61, see:
http://www.cvrc.net/ab61/

Dick, AC7EL
Pahrump, NV

156. Re: Google Logo in Morse Code

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-29 14:12:35 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <WLCdnXkUsfpTyGXUnZ2dnUVZ_h6dnZ2d@posted.pcez>
Source record: 2066

"Richard" wrote ...
> Today (April 27, 2009), on http://www.google.com the Google logo is in
> Morse Code. Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791. Neat!

Viewable here if you missed it on the day...
http://www.google.com/logos/

Richard Crowley
KE7GKP

157. 7th-Area QSO Party (7QP) - May 2

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-29 16:24:03 UTC
From: "Bill Brelsford, K2DI" <wb@k2di.net>
Message-ID: <gt9uf5$n22$1@k2di.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2067

The 2009 7th-Area QSO Party will take place this Saturday, May 2,
from 1300 to 0700 UTC. Sponsored by the Central Oregon DX Club and
many others, the object is (of course) to work stations in the
eight 7th-district states, and for 7s to work the world. New this
year is digital mode.

For full information visit http://7qp.org.

We hope to have at least 200 of the 259 counties on the air. W7s
planning to be active are encouraged to register their operation
through the website.

73,

--
Bill Brelsford, K2DI
wb@k2di.net

158. Re: Google Logo in Morse Code

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-29 19:20:29 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <75rmfaF19or46U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2068

In news:WLCdnXkUsfpTyGXUnZ2dnUVZ_h6dnZ2d@posted.pcez,
Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:
: "Richard" wrote ...
: > Today (April 27, 2009), on http://www.google.com the Google logo is
: > in Morse Code. Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791. Neat!
:
: Viewable here if you missed it on the day...
: http://www.google.com/logos/
:
: Richard Crowley
: KE7GKP

That link comes up 404 not found here. However this one works:

http://www.google-logos.com/index.php?s=morse+code

73 Ivor G6URP

159. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-29 23:26:54 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <54ec74a0-e178-4b38-828c-8c4a7d50a41a@j9g2000prh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2069

On Apr 28, 8:51 pm, "Howard Lester" <heyles...@dakotacom.net> wrote
:
> When ham radio antennas are mentioned,
> I suspect the thought that typically
> comes up is "a tower." Hams in HOA communities
> shouldn't get greedy. Yours
> is overly restrictive, yes, and of course they are not
> allowed to prevent tv
> antennas. There are many alternatives to towers and
> beams. Many dipoles are
> pretty invisible, ...

I don't think towers are the issue at all.

IMHO, the problem is that, for a large number of situations, the anti-antenna restrictions are such that *no* amateur radio antennas are allowed. Even the inconspicuous vertical, the wire dipole or disguised antennas are simply not allowed. And the rules are enforced! While indoor/attic antennas are an option for some, many modern construction methods rule them out. Stucco over wire lath, metal framing, metal roofing and siding, metal ductwork, etc. can eliminate the indoor/attic option.

Antenna support structures (a better term than "tower", IMHO) are regulated by zoning, setbacks, and building codes, so eliminating HOA/CC&Rs will not remove reasonable regulation of them.

The underlying problem is that for almost 40 years no-antennas clauses have been pretty standard in new construction and in HOA rules. In many communities, particularly in parts of the USA that have experienced considerable growth in the past few decades, the availability of homes where you can put up a reasonable antenna system is not only very limited, but constantly shrinking. This wasn't done to keep hams out, but it's having that effect.

For proof of the pervasiveness of no-antennas clauses, consider that the OTARD ruling came about because the direct-broadcast satellite TV companies pushed the case all the way to the Supreme Court. They did so because they realized that their business was doomed if they were cut off from the many millions (tens of millions?) of Americans living in places where putting a small satellite dish on the side of the house was absolutely forbidden.

We hams need similar protection.

73 de Jim, N2EY

160. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-30 09:39:11 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <GfadnXbINvjymGTUnZ2dnUVZ_rCdnZ2d@posted.dakotacomip>
Source record: 2070

<N2EY@AOL.COM> wrote
:
>> When ham radio antennas are mentioned,
>> I suspect the thought that typically
>> comes up is "a tower."

> I don't think towers are the issue at all.

I do, and I'll clarify. And don't interrupt! ;-)

First of all, as I mentioned before, the issue presented to the Arizona legislature was regarding a certain ham's desire to erect a tower in the HOA community in which he lives. Second, I suspect (again) that the public perception of a "ham radio antenna" is not a relatively benign and somewhat invisible antenna (such as a dipole or small loop), but one of a giant beam on a tower. I'm speaking about public perception.

What I wasn't yet ready to say earlier, when I said that "hams shouldn't get greedy," is that HOA rules need to be changed to accommodate benign antennas (dipoles, small loops, flagpole verticals, etc.). Yes, most HOA rules do not allow any [radio] antennas, period. That's agreed as reality. The two HOA communities that I have lived in add(ed) the clause in the CC&R's "...without permission." That is, they'll allow an antenna if the "architectural committee" approves my request. I've been relatively lucky in that regard. (OK, I never asked, and no one complained!)

I'm afraid that a PRB-1 type victory would make some hams think they would then have a "right" to erect a big antenna system. I believe that PRB-1's language "reasonable accommodation" should mean just that. "OK, you can put up an antenna in our community, but let's be reasonable."

So rather than try to invoke and ram PRB-1 to override HOA rules and steamroll the majority of homeowners who might be opposed to [transmitting] antennas -- homeowners who live in these communities because, well, they want to! -- I think the better way is to engage HOA's to change the rules from within to accommodate/allow what I've referred to as benign (i.e., doesn't decrease the neighbors' home values, or is "unsightly") types of antennas. Just how that is done, I don't know. Maybe there should be a PRB-2 created that specifically addresses HOA CC&R's to allow antennas -- up to a point. How to define such an installation could be very difficult, however.

Howard N7SO

161. Re: Google Logo in Morse Code

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-30 09:39:39 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <75sf93F1a6murU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2071

Ivor Jones wrote:
> In news:WLCdnXkUsfpTyGXUnZ2dnUVZ_h6dnZ2d@posted.pcez,
> Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net> typed, for some strange, unexplained
> reason:
> : "Richard" wrote ...
> : > Today (April 27, 2009), on http://www.google.com the Google logo is
> : > in Morse Code. Samuel Morse was born on April 27, 1791. Neat!
> :
> : Viewable here if you missed it on the day...
> : http://www.google.com/logos/
> :
> : Richard Crowley
> : KE7GKP
>
> That link comes up 404 not found here. However this one works:
>
> http://www.google-logos.com/index.php?s=morse+code

The reason for that is that host www.google.com resolves to different hosts depending on your geographic location. The original URL works fine in the US but I suspect they don't support /logos on every server.

I got quite a shock once when I accessed Google in Thailand and was presented with a page rendered in Thai script. I didn't even know that the browser I was using could render Thai script. Language preference information seems to be cookied, so I expect that if Google had ever been accessed using the browser I cranked up in Thailand that it would have remembered that I preferred English.

73, Steve KB9X

162. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-30 10:22:30 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <078421f9-d1d8-4de2-874f-bafc765e1315@k19g2000prh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2072

On Apr 30, 5:39 am, "Howard Lester" <heyles...@dakotacom.net> wrote
:
> <N...@AOL.COM> wrote

> First of all, as I mentioned before, the issue presented to the Arizona
> legislature was regarding a certain ham's desire to erect a tower in the
HOA
> community in which he lives. Second, I suspect (again) that the public
> perception of a "ham radio antenna" is not a relatively benign and somewh
at
> invisible antenna (such as a dipole or small loop), but one of a giant be
am
> on a tower. I'm speaking about public perception.

The problem is that we really don't know some important details, such
as the size of the proposed antenna vs. the size of the property, how
the appeal process works, etc.

> What I wasn't yet ready to say earlier, when I said that "hams shouldn't
get
> greedy," is that HOA rules need to be changed to accommodate benign
> antennas
> (dipoles, small loops, flagpole verticals, etc.).

Those antennas may be 'benign' to you and me, but not to everyone. And
the whole process still has the character of the amateur having to go
hat-in-hand before a committee and beg for permission to put up *any*
antenna, rather than having at least some rights in the matter.

> I'm afraid that a PRB-1 type victory would make some hams think they woul
d
> then have a "right" to erect a big antenna system.

What's wrong with that? Assuming an antenna can be put up in
compliance with applicable safety codes and good engineering practice,
and is not out-of-scale with the property, what's the problem? Sure, a
70 foot tower on a tenth-of-an-acre lot isn't a good idea, but when
someone has more than an acre, the picture becomes very different.

I think people *do* have a right to put up big antenna systems if they
meet safety standards. I think the test of what should be allowed has
to do with real, not imagined, harm to the neighbors.

It strikes me as somewhat illogical that utility companies can put up
poles 50 or more feet tall with wires, transformers, insulators and
all kinds of hardware on them, yet when a ham wants "a tower", it's

somehow going to ruin the neighborhood.

> I believe that PRB-1's
> language "reasonable accommodation" should mean just that.
> "OK, you can put
> up an antenna in our community, but let's be reasonable."

Of course. But who decides what is reasonable? To some folks, a G5RV
in the back yard of a half-acre lot isn't "reasonable". Remember,
we're talking folks who think a gray satellite dish the size of a
large pizza will ruin property values and community character.

> So rather than try to invoke and ram PRB-1 to override HOA rules and
> steamroll the majority of homeowners who might be opposed to [transmittin
g]
> antennas -- homeowners who live in these communities because, well, they
> want to! -- I think the better way is to engage HOA's to change the rules
> from within to accommodate/allow what I've referred to as benign (i.e.,
> doesn't decrease the neighbors' home values, or is "unsightly") types of
> antennas. Just how that is done, I don't know. Maybe there should be a PR
B-2
> created that specifically addresses HOA CC&R's to allow antennas -- up to
a
> point. How to define such an installation could be very difficult, howeve
r.
>
I think that in many cases the rules are set up specifically to be
unreasonable. For example, deed covenants and restrictions can be
written in such a way that the HOA has no authority to override them,
and is required to enforce them. They "run with the land", and are
private contracts that the buyer agreed to. In such cases, the only
way around them is to declare them illegal.

Or an HOA can set things up so that rules can be changed in theory,
but not in practice, such as requiring 100% of property owners to
agree to any change (just try to get 100% response on anything!) high
filing fees, professional engineering studies, etc.

As for people choosing to live in such communities - if there were
really a choice, this problem wouldn't be so widespread.

73 de Jim, N2EY

163. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-30 12:25:09 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <3f27d462-af95-4f76-b7f2-1c0a00cdef74@z8g2000prd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2073

On Apr 30, 4:39 am, "Howard Lester" <heyles...@dakotacom.net> wrote:
> <N...@AOL.COM> wrote

> I think the better way is to engage HOA's to change the rules
> from within to accommodate/allow what I've referred to as benign (i.e.,
> doesn't decrease the neighbors' home values, or is "unsightly") types of
> antennas. Just how that is done, I don't know. Maybe there should be a PR
B-2
> created that specifically addresses HOA CC&R's to allow antennas -- up to
a
> point. How to define such an installation could be very difficult, howeve
r.
>

Generally I agree that actively working with your HOA is your best (and only) approach in most cases, you are unlikely to get the rules changed. If the restriction is in the form of a deed restriction (and most are) it is nearly impossible to make any changes to them because it requires 100% buy in from all the homeowners to change them. I don't know about your HOA, but I dare say we'd be hard pressed to get 100% of lot owners to agree on ANYTHING. The term "herding cats" applies here if you ask me. Why CC&R's are written this way is beyond me, except that if you think about who actually writes and files these things doesn't really care about the long term impact. The developer just wants to get in, sell all the lots and get out as fast as they can. Personally, I think CC&R's should have a built in way where they automatically expire unless the majority of lot owners agree to keep them going, but that's a whole different issue.

In my case, I have to deal with two different "documents" the HOA has. One is the CC&R's, which I can pretty much assume will not change. And the other is a set of "guidelines" which have been used to refine and redefine some of the enforced rules of the HOA. Both restrict transmitting antennas in different ways and have present different problems. The "guidelines" are the most restrictive and clearly illegal because they violate the OTARD rules. However, they can be changed by the board of directors so there is a chance that one could sweet talk their way though that. The CC&R's rules on antennas are not obviously illegal, so if I where to go to the trouble of getting the "guidelines" declared illegal, I'd be stuck with the CC&R rules which where carefully written to not violate the OTARD rules and don't allow transmission antennas. This means I'm pretty much stuck from a legal perspective. Leaving me with what I can get the HOA board to agree to allow me to do. Given their past history, this may not be much.

We stand little chance of getting anything close to PRB-2 for a number of reasons. First, there are at best 700,000 hams in the USA last I looked. Even if you got all of us to actually turn out and vote we still are a tiny fraction of the total votes being cast out there. We have almost zero political power because we have very few votes. Second, we don't have a lot of money to spend on public relations and lawyers like the broadcast industry did. Third, the HOA management industry is going to oppose such a move and they DO have lots of $$ and lawyers to make their argument.

Best we can hope for is some kind of "natural made" case that makes it clear to the average non-ham why their interests are best served by allowing antennas to be built up the street. Over the last few years I've seen a number of hurricanes that should have made the case an easy argument, but even then we have not been effective enough in making our case.

I think our best hope of getting CC&R's preempted nationwide is to get the FCC to reverse their previous decisions to not extend their PRB-1 rules to cover them. The best hope we have of getting that done is to try and get commissioners appointed that understand the issue enough not to be taking in by the deep pockets of those who would oppose such a thing. Even then, I think it will take a bit of luck, some kind of dramatic event where ham radio could have helped and a really effective public relations campaign to get the FCC to reverse their standing decisions.

I've seen some pretty bad hurricanes in the past few years where ham radio was a valuable tool, but all this is lost on the public. We are seen as a bunch of old guys, locked in tiny rooms talking into glowing boxes attached to huge antennas systems that look horrible and bring property values down. Few folks know that the ï¿½trained weather spotterï¿½ who was responsible for that tornado warning that saved countless lives was the same guy who wants to expand his community service capacity (and enjoy his property in the mean time) is the same guy who wants to put up that modest antenna system down the street. Somehow this has to change.

-= Bob =-

164. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-30 12:25:23 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <d1ade4f6-da53-4fd5-893b-8dd5f9f18c7a@d2g2000pra.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2074

On Apr 30, 5:22 am, N...@AOL.COM wrote:
>
> As for people choosing to live in such communities - if there were
> really a choice, this problem wouldn't be so widespread.
>

Very good point! I've always wondered if the FCC could be "talked into" a bit more consideration given the fact that HOA's and CC&R's are now popping up almost everywhere.

In my area, I don't know of ANY new subdivisions that where built in the last 10 years that didn't come with CC&R's restricting antennas. I would venture to guess that more than 90% of houses less than 10 years old built withing 20 miles of my house would carry such restrictions.

The FCC did see a need to keep local governments from crushing ham radio though excessive zoning regulations, and saw that CC&R's rules where a problem for broadcast media... Why won't they do the right thing here? (I have my theory.. Follow the money..)

-= Bob =-

165. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-04-30 14:42:33 UTC
From: poster@giganews.com
Message-ID: <qoCdnTCS8pVMMmTUnZ2dnUVZ_oWdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2075

The FCC's position in refusing to use federal preemption to override these CC&Rs has been that amateurs voluntarily accepted these restrictions when they purchased their properties.

I would argue that in many cases, no suitable* alternative property exists that *doesn't* have anti-antenna CC&Rs -- and if no alternative exists to buying a CC&R property, then the CC&Rs were not voluntarily agreed to and should be unenforceable.

* Pretty much everywhere, you can find *some* properties without CC&Rs. Often, they are particularly undesirable properties -- huge (and expensive) plots of land; tiny lots in high-crime neighborhoods; places adjacent to industrial parks; places way out in the woods with long commutes(W9WI raises hand).

I would suggest that from a moral standpoint, a property buyer should be able to erect antennas regardless of CC&Rs if (s)he can show:

- No alternative property without anti-antenna CC&Rs exists that is within 5 miles of the distance between the property in question and the buyer's place of employment.

- Any alternative property within this range is unusually unsuitable for amateur radio. (due to overhead HV power lines, location adjacent to a large cliff, location adjacent to a noisy industrial park, location adjacent to an AM broadcast station, etc...)

- Any alternative property within this range is unusually undesirable. (is adjacent to a sewage plant, or a strip club; floods frequently; is in poor physical condition; etc.)

- Any alternative property within this range is significantly (say, 15%) more expensive than the property in question.

Mind you, such a scheme would be absolutely politically impossible.

--

Doug Smith W9WI
Pleasant View, TN EM66

166. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-01 03:05:43 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gtdj7jsri1@news.motzarella.org>
Source record: 2076

>
> It strikes me as somewhat illogical that utility companies can put up
> poles 50 or more feet tall with wires, transformers, insulators and
> all kinds of hardware on them, yet when a ham wants "a tower", it's
> somehow going to ruin the neighborhood.
>

Keeping in context here, Jim, the developments which restrict towers, etc.,
generally also have buried utilities.

While I sympathize with hams in CC&R/HOA developments, I don't anticipate
any legislative relief from private contracts willingly signed by
homebuyers.

The "way around" this is to simply live in a neighborhood without such
restrictions. Both my homes are in "nice" urban neighborhoods, and neither
has any private antenna structure restrictions beyond normal city zoning
laws. You just have to look a little harder.

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/

167. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1655 - May 1 2009 - Prefeed

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-01 08:54:30 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090501014951.037652c8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2077
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1655 - May 1 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Here's our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, who says that donations are needed right now:

--

Yep, it's me. A.J. And if I'm here you likely suspect that once again the
Amateur Radio Newsline is in desperate need of your financial support. And you would be right.

If you look back, you will notice that the last time you heard me soliciting donations was way back in 2008. Thanks to your generosity last year the need for me to make these announcements was minimal.

We know you prefer to hear the news rather than having to listen to these announcements and we agree. But over the past few months almost all donations have ceased so here we are with our annual spring pitch.

As we have said so many times before, it takes money to gather the news. It takes money to assemble a newscast and it takes money to bring it to you. And as the price of goods and services continue to increase, so do our operating costs. The cost of telephone service. The cost of web access. The costs related to hosting our website and providing you with a downloadable FTP of the newscast. The cost of equipment repair and upgrade. In essence, all of the costs involved in bringing you 52 newscasts a year as we have done for almost 31 years.

We do our very best to keep operating expenses to a minimum. Everyone involved in the Amateur Radio Newsline is a volunteer. There is no paid staff.

More important, all of the monies you donate go only toward operating expenses and in supporting the Young Ham of the Year Award. And for you, your donation is tax deductible.

We even make it very easy to donate. If you have web access all you need to do is take your web browser to www.arnewsline.org. Then click on the words "Make a donation" and use your PayPal account or credit card to transfer into ours.

Or you can use the good old method of writing a check and sending it to Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia CA 91066.

Either way, we thank you for your kindness. For your support and for your trust.

OK. Time for me to get back to my desk and back to balancing the books. For the support fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1655 with a release date of Friday, May 1st, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. Police in Indianapolis discover ham radio is more than just a tactical channel and they like it as a hobby. Also, Amateur radio prepares for the Swine Flu, a new group in Europe is formed to Challenge the International Amateur Radio Union as the IARU thanks broadcasters for moving off of 40 meters, and hams in Honolulu get their first ever pro ham radio legislation. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1655 coming your way right now.

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: IMPD HOLD FIRST TEST SESSION

A growing number of police officers in Indianapolis have decided to get their ham radio licenses. This, after being told by their superiors in the department to remove all personal radio gear from patrol vehicles. Now they are discovering that there's more to the hobby than idle chit chat. Some are so impressed that they are even helping to organize training and testing sessions for their fellow officers. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jack Parker, W8ISH, has the latest:

--

As we first reported last February, the Indianapolis Metro Police Department has cracked down on road officers using Amateur Radios without a license. This comes following a complaint filed with the FCC by a local ham.

As a result, the Indianapolis Police Chief ordered all illegal radios removed from police cars until the officers became licensed hams. That forced dozens of Metro officers to race off to the nearest Amateur Radio book store.

Veteran police officer Dewey Runnels passed his test and helped organize a weekday test session for officers working Indy's eastside district. Over sixty officers signed up to take the Technician Class license test.

This called for a response from the ham radio SWAT team. That stands for Swift Working Amateur Testers. VE Dave Wendt-KA9OOH, recruited thirteen volunteer examiners from four Central Indiana counties to handle the overwhelming number of applicants. IMPD provided a training room, the officers lined up, produced an ID and put pen to paper to earn their Tech ticket. The centralized test session allowed officers from three different shifts an opportunity to work the exam into their work schedule.

Of those pre-registered only one third showed up to take the test. Sixty percent of the officers passed and now await their new amateur radio call signs.

Officer Dewey Runnels, KC9PIY, expects future test sessions to be better attended. He is excited about his new privileges and looks forward to a General Class upgrade.

KC9PIY: "I've talked to a couple of guys that have been able to talk
to
Canada, California and South America and I want to be part of that."

Future weekday test sessions are being scheduled to accommodate the growing number of IMPD officers wishing to earn their Technician Class license.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

--

This footnote: Don't look for these newly licensed police officer hams to be operating while on duty. Indianapolis Metro Police officials have renewed their original VHF radio license. They plan to give road officers at least 10 VHF channels. This, for point-to-point communications using department-approved radios. (W8ISH, ARNewsline(tm))

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS PREPARE FOR THE SWINE FLU PANDEMIC

Ham radio operators involved in emergency communications are making ready in case they are needed if the Swine Flu hits their area. We have more in this report:

--

During the past year, the Health Department in Nevada has discovered the power of amateur radio. This, according to Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, who says that Nevada hams involved in emergency communications have worked 2 major, statewide drills for pandemic point of dispensing of emergency supplies.

The hams passed traffic on how many citizens could be vaccinated over a given period of time. They also supplied information on how much vaccine was available.

Don says that officials were quite impressed with what hams did for them. Especially after their Satellite Phones failed and were unreliable. Simply said, ham radio had the ability to continue communications when the conventional methods of communicating shut down.

During the drills, the point of dispensing, better known by the acronym POD's were real, and open to the public, giving free flu shots.

Don says that it was quite amazing how the Nevada ham community did this only last year. Now, the real deal seems to be knocking on our door.

Carlson says that Nevada hams have already been asked to be on standby in case their services are needed should there be a major Swine Flu outbreak. He tells Newsline that they are well trained and prepared..

In addition to reporting for Newsline, Don Carlson, KQ6FM, also serves as the Nevada Section Emergency Coordinator and RACES Officer. The reason he is not here doing this report himself is that ironically, he is involved in this weekend's Emcommwest Pacificon gathering in Reno. Needless to say that preparing for the Swine Flu pandemic will be a hot button topic to be discussed at this year's gathering.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

More on this in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM POLITICS: NEW EURAO ORGANIZATION SEEN AS CHALLENGE TO IARU

A world challenge to the political dominance International Amateur Radio Union has, has been established in Europe. The challenge is from a group calling itself EURAO. That's an acronym for the European Radio Amateurs' Organization. It's a group that seems to have taken aim at the IARU's strict policy of having only one national society represent any given nation's ham radio community to the rest of the world.

EURAO says that its prime goal is to unite all amateur radio associations in Europe and beyond. According to its website, the original idea, proposed by F5RCS in 2005, is to provide an opportunity to combine efforts of all those radio amateurs' associations that EURAO claims that the IARU does not support. This, due to what EURAO calls International Amateur Radio Union rigid structure that prevents admitting more than one association per country which EURAO says amounts to a true monopoly. One more concerned with their own income than promoting the interests of Amateur Radio.

Whether or not that claim has any validity is obviously open to debate. That said, it's well established that anyone or any group that has
tried to challenge any national ham radio society has quickly found out that it takes massive amounts of money to do so. In our lifetime here in the United States there have been many challenges to the American Radio Relay League's dominance as the single national society representing all U.S. radio amateurs whether or not they are dues paying members. This has included the abortive Institute of Amateur Radio founded in the early 1960's as an alternative to the ARRL by 73 Magazine Editor Wayne Green, W2NSD. It did not last very long nor have any other attempts to replace the ARRL with a different group. Every one of the challenges has failed, mainly due to lack of funding.

What quickly becomes apparent is that even with web exposure, it still costs tens of millions of dollars -- or Euro's in the case of EURAO's -- to mount and run the kind of campaign needed to reach the ham radio masses. It's the ham in the street whose support is required and simply establishing a website is not going to reach all that many.

You can read more about the European Radio Amateurs' Organization at www.eurao.org/en/node/54
(Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: IARU THANKS BROADCASTERS FOR SWIFT MOVE OFF 40

Speaking about the International Amateur Radio Union, it has thanked shortwave broadcasters for achieving a high degree of migration away from the now-worldwide Amateur-exclusive band of 7100 to 7200 kHz. This, by the mandated March 29th date.

IARU Secretary Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, has been quick to acknowledge the compliance by most broadcasters to QSY out of that band, as required by a decision of the World Radio Conference in 2003. In a statement, Sumner thanked the international broadcast community for its compliance with the changeover schedule. He also noted that he is certain that the few remaining broadcast transmitters operating on 7200 kHz and below will be addressed in the coming weeks.

Sumner's letter of appreciation was sent to the High Frequency Coordination Conference. That group represents 60 organizations from more than 30 countries accounting for up to 80% of the global output of short wave broadcasting.

The departure of broadcasting from this spectrum has resulted in an enormous improvement in the usefulness of 40 meters for amateur radio communication. (VK3PC)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N4MWA repeater serving the community of Phelps, Kentucky.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: HONLOULU HAMS WIN MOBILE RADIO EXEMPTION

A major victory for hams in Honolulu, Hawaii. Bill 4, the pro-ham radio mobile cellular phone legislation for the City and County of Honolulu passed Third Reading on April 22nd, and has passed out of the Council.

The measure includes a full exemption for radio amateurs from the effects of this bill. This bill is significant because it addresses the issue of

traffic safety, but does not diminish the role of amateur radio in the course of the legislation. It's also believed to be the first legislation in Hawaii that fully supports amateur radio. The mayor will sign this bill into law shortly, with an effective date will be July 1st.

But the fight is not over yet. The Hawaii County Council is currently working with a draft equivalent to Bill 4, but so far lacks the exemption for amateur radio. According to Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, the next few weeks will be important for the Big Island for testimony and education of their Council members.

Updates will be posted on this web page: http://www.qsl. net/ah6rh/ am-radio/ cellular- phone-ordinance. html (AH6RH, KH6QX)

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RADIO LAW: SUPREME COURT SAYS NO MORE FLEETING DIRTY WORDS CAN BE BROADCAST

Using dirty words in any broadcast is illegal. So says the Supreme Court in its Tuesday, April 28th narrow ruling in favor of a government policy. One that threatens broadcasters with fines over the use of even a single curse word on any broadcast.

By a 5 to 4 vote, the court threw out an earlier decision by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that had found in favor of a Fox Television-led challenge to the FCC policy. That court returned the case to the agency for what it had termed as a reasoned analysis of its tougher line on indecency. Instead, the FCC took the matter to the Supreme Court.

By way of background, the FCC changed its long standing policy after it concluded that an unofficial one free expletive rule did not make sense. This, in the context of keeping the air waves free of indecency when children are likely to be watching television. This, based on a Supreme Court decision some ruled 31 years ago that determined that the FCC could ban curse words from the airwaves between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. local time in any given broadcast market.

The events leading to this latest change involved a number of live broadcasts of awards shows in which celebrities let slip a few variations of certain dirty words. So-called fleeting expletives were not treated as indecent before then. The Fox Television Stations and other networks challenged the policy after the FCC singled out use of the words by entertainers Bono, Cher and Nicole Richie during awards programs that aired in 2002 and 2003.

What, if anything, this ruling might mean to personal radio users at this time is unclear. In the short term, likely nothing.

However, the FCC has been known to use legal findings in one service as basis to enforce rules in another. It has successfully denied license renewals in several services based on violations in others and has used cross service violations to successfully lift all licenses in some cases. That's even happened in ham radio.

Now, with so many scanner radios out there in households with young children, there is the possibility, albeit a remote one, that enough complaints reaching the FCC about a foul mouthed ham could bring some enforcement action based on this ruling regarding broadcast indecency into play. (Adapted from Media Network and various published reports.)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: FDARA ASKED TO ASSIST WITH LOCAL AIRPORT DISASTER DRILL

Members of Iowa's The Fort Dodge Amateur Radio Association will be providing communications for an emergency drill on April 30th. This, after being invited by officials to assist the Fort Dodge Regional Airport by providing a back-up emergency response to the 2009 Fort Dodge Regional Airport Aircraft Disaster Drill.

During the two-hour exercise, all modes and methods of communications will be used. Following demobilization, there will be a meeting with airport, TSA, EMA and city emergency officials. This, to discuss their assessment of all aspects of this emergency preparedness event. (AC0LM)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO SUPPORTS THE 2009 TOUR DE ROUGE BIKE RIDE

Ham radio will be providing communications for the Tour de Rouge bike ride slated for May 3rd to the 8th. This will include groups communicating via the 444.500 WB5ITT Beaumont, Texas repeater, the 147.24 K5ET Crowley, Louisiana and the 145.23 W5GQ Baton Rouge, Louisiana repeaters. All bands from HF through 2 meter SSB will also be used for coordination of this massive, 512 mile event. The ride supports Red Cross chapters along the US Gulf Coast. (WB5ITT)

**

RADIO JUSTICE: NY MAN GETS 5 YEARS IN PRISON FOR SELLING HEZBOLLAH TV IN USA

Remember the case of Javed Iqbal we reported on more than two years ago? He's the 45year old Pakistani citizen living in New York City who was
charged back in 2006 with supporting Hezbollah by importing the signal of the Al Manar and selling it to US customers .

Well, Iqbal quietly plead guilty to the charges last December. Now, he has been sentenced to serve more than five and a half years in prison for the crime that he still says was noting more than a legal way to make a living.

The US Treasury branded Al Manar a terrorist organization in March, 2006, saying it supported Hezbollah's fund raising and recruitment activities. Prosecutors said Iqbal, who moved to the United States more than 26 years ago, provided transmission services to the Beirut-based channel in return for payment between 2005 and 2006. They termed him Hezbollah's "man" in New York City.

But Iqbal's defense lawyer, Joshua Dratel, said his client had no ideological support for Hezbollah. Dratel said that Iqbal sold the channel to make money as part of his satellite television business that also included Christian channels and even some adult entertainment. A second man who worked for the Iqbal's company has also pleaded guilty. (Media Network)

**

THE DTV TRANSITION: 3.8 MILLION STILL NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME

Not everyone is ready for the upcoming United States transition to all digital television and ham radio's assistance is still needed in the public awareness campaign. Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, reports:

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According to the A.C. Neilsen Company, some 3.8 million, or 3.4% of all United States households are still unprepared for the digital television transition slated to take place on June 12th. Geographically, Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the least prepared, with 9.4% having no over-the-air digital reception capability. It's followed by the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and
Houston, Texas, each with 6.3% of the citizenry not ready for the transition.

On the other side of the equation, the most digital ready cities appear to be New Haven and Hartford, Connecticut and the Providence to New Bedford region of Rhode Island. Each of these have less than one percent of their citizens unprepared for the digital TV change.

As previously reported, several months ago the FCC requested, through the ARRL, that ham radio operators assist their communities in preparing for the digital television rollout. Many radio clubs across the U.S. have reportedly become involved as advisors in this ongoing public service effort, nationwide.

I'm Jim Meachen. ZL2BHF.

--

Again, the date for the transition to digital television in the United States is June 12th. If your club wants to assist in helping the public to be prepared for the move, please contact the ARRL. (Adapted from a report in B&C and other sources.)

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RADIO LAW: THE 106.1 MHZ UNLICENSED STATION IN SAN DIEGO

Ever wonder what an unlicensed broadcast station's location and antenna might look like? Well, the 106.1 MHz San Diego area station recently written up in the CGC Communicator apparently used two transmitter sites. The first location was on El Cajon Blvd. The station then seemed to have relocated to Monroe Ave. before going off the air. You can see it

all for yourself: http://earthsignals.com/add_CGC/San_Diego_Pirate.htm (CGC)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: ATTENDANCE AT BARCELONA MOBILE PHONE TRADE SHOW DOWN

The softness in the market for new mobile phones showed clearly in a thin array of new product rollouts at the recent Mobile World Congress trade show in Barcelona, Spain. In what little there was, Sony-Ericsson announced its first full touch-screen phone with a 12 megapixel camera running Symbian Foundation S60 software. This is the first non-Nokia phone to use that platform.

Sony-Ericsson also announced a new Walkman phone as well. Meantime, Samsung also renewed its promise to eventually release an Android phone, but wasn't ready to preview a model at the show.

Attendence was down to 49,000 from 55,000 last year with the reason likely the slumping world economy. (Radio News OnLine)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: VE7IYOA CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY

The first amateur radio special event station for the International Year of Astronomy has been announced and it is VE7IYOA located in Victoria, British Columbia Canada. VE7IYOA will be active from June 1st to the 30th to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Galileo Galilei's first look at the sky
through an optical instrument. This Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer, and philosopher is acclaimed as the father of modern observational astronomy. VE7IYOA has a unique QSL card on offer. (VK3PC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NCDXF ELECTS NEW LEADERS

The NCDXF has new leaders. At its Board of Directors meeting on April 17th, the Northern California DX Foundation elected Bruce Butler, W6OSP, as President and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, as Vice President. Outgoing President Len Geraldi, K6ANP, and Vice President Al Burnham, K6RIM, remain on the board as Directors. Information pertaining to the Northern California DX Foundation is available on-line at www.ncdxf.org (NCDXF)

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: 2009 TAPR/AMSAT BANQUET MAY 15

The third annual joint TAPR and AMSAT Banquet will be held Friday evening, May 15, 2008, during the Dayton Hamvention. The event is slated for the Jefferson Room at the Kohler Presidential Banquet Center, in Kettering, Ohio. Reservations are required and must be made by Monday, May 11th. For additional information contact the AMSAT office by e-mail to martha (at) amsat (dot) org. (ANS)

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: RTTY FORUM TO DISCUSS CONTEST PARTICIPATOPN

This year's Dayton Hamvention RTTY forum will feature a panel discussion on
how best to accommodate the diversity of participants in RTTY contests. Speakers scheduled to appear include K5DU, K4GMH, W2QO, and K4IA. Each will give a short presentation of their perspective on participant diversity in these contests and then be available to address questions and comments from the audience. The forum takes place in Meeting Room 3 from 12:20 to 1 PM local time on Saturday, May 16th. (RTTY Reflector)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: LIVE FROM HAMVENTION TO YOUR HAMSHACK

Hams who cannot attend Hamvention 2009 can still be there vicariously thanks to Tom Medlin, W5KUB. For the 7th-year-running, Tom will be streaming live video and audio of this "show of shows" to radio amateurs worldwide.

Tom's transmissions will go live Wednesday May 13 at 1300GMT for his 500 mile drive to the Hara Arena. He will then be streaming on Thursday as he sets up in the Flea Market and then for the entire Hamvention. The broadcast will end as he gets back home to Memphis, Tennessee, on Sunday night.

In addition to the video, the site has a chat room where you can talk with other hams around the world. And you will find it all on-line, Hamvention weekend at www.w5kub.com. (W5KUB)

**

PROPAGATION NEWS: NEW SOLAR CYCLE 24 WEBSITE

Wondering where Solar Cycle 24 is? So is Kevin Gibeau ,VE3EN, in Ontario, Canada. And now Kevin has established a web site to track the ever so slowly emerging solar cycle.

The information on this site updates every two minutes and is gathered from a wide range of sources. This saves you the trouble of surfing the web to find all the data yourself. Instead, you need only take your web browser to www.solarcycle24.com to find it all. (Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW APRS SATELLITES BEING PLANNED

The APRS satellite fleet will be expanded in the not to distant future. Writing from the US Naval Academy Satellite Development Lab, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, the father of APRS, reports on new satellites with the same APRS packet relay capability as currently operated by PCSAT and the ISS that are now in their development stages.

Bruninga says that their design will use the new Byonics all-on-a-board Packet TNC/Radio/Telemetry system. This makes it possible to build a packet satellite out of a single 3.4" square board. 5 rechargeable batteries is all you need to power this tiny APRS satellite.

No launch dates have been announced at this time. (WB4APR)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CELEBRATING THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

A group of radio amateurs are planning a commemorative event to mark this year's 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Called 'Echoes of Apollo,' various activities are planned around June and July.

The organizers of the event are reportedly negotiating with some of the world's largest and most capable amateur radio moon-bounce stations, and also some radio deep space radio facilities. The idea is to hook-up people from various locations using moon-bounce and, if the antennas are large enough, possibly achieving near broadcast quality audio. You might say, a kind of ï¿½Back-to-the-Moon' day.

Also planned is an HF radio weekend, with HF stations set up near sites that took part in the original support for the Apollo 11 mission. The EME event is planned for the 27th of June and the HF event is planned for July 18th to the 20th. More on this as information becomes available. (WIA News)

**

WORLDBEAT: THE ANSWER IS "BLOWIN' IN THE UK WIND"

The UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has published a report dealing with the effects of interference caused by power generating Wind Farms turbines to Ultra High Frequency and Super High Frequency communications. The report was compiled by ERA Technology and Aegis Systems Ltd. It describes a technical study in which a series of measurements were carried out with regard to the presence of wind turbines near to wireless services.

Some of their findings include the fact that a single turbine can produce measured fades as large as 3 dB for UHF scanning telemetry links and 2 dB for fixed links operating between 1.5 and 18 GHz. This, when the turbine is lying on the transmitter-receiver path. Also established is that a wind farm with seventeen turbines can produce measured fades as large as 10 to 15 dB for 1% of the time when the wind farm is lying on the transmitter-receiver path.

The purpose of the study was to enhance understanding of the effects of wind turbines near to wireless services. The full text of this propagation study and report in PDF Format is available at http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/classes/fixed/Windfarms/rf_measurement/windfarm_report.pdf
(ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT: FRANCE FAILS TO PASS ENTERTAINMENT ANTI-PIRACY MEASURE

French lawmakers have rejected a bill that would have cut off the Internet connections of people who illegally download music or films. The measure would have also created the world's first government agency to track and punish those who steal music and film on the Internet.

The contested bill had initially passed the lower house of parliament two weeks ago and seemed destined for overwhelming approval by France's legislative body. But very few lawmakers were present for Thursday, April 9th vote to finalize the measure, which was rejected by a vote of 21 to 15.

The music and film industry had supported the bill, aimed at cracking down on illegal downloading. Its critics claimed that it encroached far too much on individual freedoms. (RW)

**

RADIOSPORTS: NEW CONTESTING COMPENDIUM WEBSITE

In radiosports news, Pete Smith, N4ZR, has announced that the new Contesting Compendium website is now up-and-running. The objective of this Web page is to make it a one-stop resource source for information on contesting. You can find it on-line at http://wiki.contesting.com (N4ZR)

**

RADIOSPORTS: 2008 JUNE VHF QSO PARTY CERTS MAILED OUT

Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the ARRL's Contest Branch Manager says that certificates for the 2008 June VHF QSO Party have been mailed out. Kutzko also reports that plaques have been ordered and will begin shipping in a few weeks. KX9X says that he will notify the ham community when the plaques go out the door. (KX9X)

**

DX

In DX, listen out for the Greek special event callsign SY2DDAY between June 4th and 7th. It will be on the air to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the greatest landing operation in history during WWII. That, of course, was the Allied-lead Normandy Beach invasion with the participation of seven countries. Greece supplied 2 warships and 4 commercial freighters. QSL this one only direct as instructed on the air.

And W5KDJ, will be active from Madagascar as 5R8KD between from July 1st to the 15th. He will be active on 160 through 6 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign. He is also accepting Logbook to the World and eQSL.

SM1TDE, is planning an operation from Gambia to take place between December 10-31st. More details on this one as they are announced.

The "DX World of Ham Radio" Web page is reporting that H44MY and H44T are once again in the Solomon Islands staying in Honiara. Mike has indicated that there are no plans to be immediately active so keep an ear open for both these calls to show up with little or no notice.

Lastly, JA1DOT, is now active from Bhutan as A52DT. He will be there until May 6th on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign. Updates will be posted on the Nippon DX Association's web page.

(Above from various DX newsletters and news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A TESTAMENT TO SAMUEL F.B. MORSE

Lastly, a belated 218th Happy Birthday to the inventor of telegraph communications, Samuel F.B. Morse.

Morse was born on April 27, 1791, in Charlestown, Massachusetts. 53 years later on May 24th 1844, it was Morse who sent the words "What hath God wrought" by telegraph from Washington, D.C to Baltimore, Maryland. That single transmission ushered in a new era in telecommunications and set the stage for the vast global data and voice networks that exist today.

But Morse's influence on communications appears to be in its sunset days. His vision of a vast wired community based on dots and dashes did emerge to some degree but has since given way to wireless communications, with the telegraph considered an anachronism of another century long past.

Most services have phased out the use of the Morse Code having replaced it with automated digital communications. Even the longtime distress monitoring for the three letters SOS is being phased out world-wide in favor of an automated, satellite-based search and rescue service.

Very soon it will only be the current generation of ham radio operators who will likely be using Morse's simple, but elegant communications system and it's not known if the next generation of ham radio operators will want to carry this nostalgia and legacy on. Let's hope they do because it would be
a shame to see the contributions of the great Samel F.B. Morse forgotten with the sands of time.

By the way, the Google search engine did its share in celebrating. On April 27th it featured some Morse Code right on its front page. (ARNewsline(tm) from various sources.)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our email address is newsline (at) arnewsline (dot) org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only
official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org. Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editor's desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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168. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-01 16:24:13 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <b5ded78e-bdc6-4986-bfcc-4468fcd59988@d7g2000prl.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2078

On Apr 30, 10:05 pm, Kï¿½HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
> Both my homes are in "nice" urban neighborhoods, and neither
> has any private antenna structure restrictions beyond normal city zoning
> laws. You just have to look a little harder.
>

The argument make sense in some areas of the country, but in the faster growing areas CC&R's are almost always a part of buying a house. In the suburban areas of Dallas you will be hard pressed to find any subdivision built in the last 10 years that doesn't have CC&R's. I've done a fairly exhaustive survey in the town of Murphy (just to the northeast of Dallas) and I've not found ANY houses built after 1999 that are not subject to deed restrictions. (I assume that most CC&R's are going to restrict antennas.)

So the contention that you just have to look a little harder is true to a point, but you will need to be willing to drive further and spend more money on your house too.

-= Bob =-

169. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 17 (Friday, May 1, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-01 20:31:39 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090501203108.3A16731C5E@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2079
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 17
May 1, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Houston Representative Introduces Amateur Radio Bill in Congress
* + President Obama Nominates New FCC Commissioner
* + The 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention: Two Weeks
and Counting!
* + ARRL Foundation Announces 2009 Scholarship Recipients
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* + ARRL In Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?
* Solar Update
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This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ No ARRL Audio News on May 15
+ Larry Banks, W1DYJ, Wins April QST Cover Plaque Award
ARRL Sweepstakes Awards Sent
ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Two 2009 Operations
Internet Search Engine Celebrates Birthday of Samuel F. B. Morse

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO BILL IN CONGRESS

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX)
introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives. This
bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public
service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a
volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in
the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur
Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying
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unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

* Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
* Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
* Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
* Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
* Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

The bill currently has five co-sponsors: Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Representative Thompson currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Representatives Jackson-Lee, Lofgren and Kilroy are members of that committee.

"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the five original co-sponsors for their support of Amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill offers."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely

encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee -- who recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."

==> PRESIDENT OBAMA NOMINATES NEW FCC COMMISSIONER

On Wednesday, April 29, President Barack Obama announced his intention to nominate Mignon L. Clyburn of South Carolina as an FCC Commissioner <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-More-Key-Administration-Posts-4-29-09/>. If her nomination is approved by Congress, Clyburn will fill the seat of Democrat Jonathan Adelstein. Adelstein is leaving the FCC to head up the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1>.

Clyburn, the daughter of House Majority Whip Representative James Clyburn (D-SC), has served on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina <http://www.psc.sc.gov/> since 1998. The Public Service Commission regulates South Carolina's investor owned public utilities, including providers of telecommunications services. Before her election to that body, she spent 14 years as the publisher and general manager of "The Coastal Times," a weekly newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1998, Clyburn was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly as a Commissioner to represent the Sixth Congressional District; she has been re-elected three times, chairing the Commission from 2002-2004. She is a past chair of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and is presently the chair of the Washington Action Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) <http://www.naruc.org/>. Clyburn also serves on NARUC's Audit Committee and Utilities Market Access Partnership Board.

Calling Clyburn a "fine public servant," Obama said Clyburn was "a welcome addition to my team as we work to put America on a path towards prosperity and keep our nation safe. I am honored [Clyburn] will be joining my administration and look forward to working with [her] in the months and years ahead."

Acting FCC Chairman Michael Copps congratulated Clyburn, saying, "She is an excellent choice, and the experience she brings from her service on South Carolina's Public Service Commission will be an invaluable asset as we address the many challenges and opportunities that are before us. I wish her a successful Senate confirmation and look forward to working with her over the coming months and years in serving consumers and the public interest."

Clyburn graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Banking, Finance & Economics in 1984.

==> THE 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND DAYTON HAMVENTION: TWO WEEKS AND COUNTING!

On May 15-17, hams from all over the world will make their way to the Hara Arena, located in Trotwood, Ohio for the 2009 ARRL National Convention <http://www.arrl.org/announce/nc/2009/dayton.html> and Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org/>. Held annually since 1952, Hamvention is one of the largest Amateur Radio gatherings in the world.

Following the tradition of Dayton natives Wilber and Orville Wright, the ARRL National Convention will be a "hands-on" paradise. New, interactive exhibits at the ARRL EXPO, the centerpiece of the National Convention, will provide engaging, real-life experiences that encourage hams and non-hams alike to get more active in Amateur Radio. At the ARRL Project Building Booth, attendees can try their hand at assembling a kit as they handle electronic components and circuit boards -- even a little soldering!
"If you have never built a project before, we hope you will consider this a 'Soldering 101' basic course," said ARRL Laboratory Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM. Allison will lead a team of instructors who will mentor visitors throughout the activity. "We want to encourage hams who have not built something in a long time to get back in the saddle. Project building is fun, and it's a great way to build low cost gear and accessories. We want everyone to unlock their inner do-it-yourselfer." Pre-registration is required -- sign up at the ARRL EXPO.

You can also explore the many facets of ARRL Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> at the ARRL EXPO. "Field Day is the largest operating event in the world and represents the very best of the Amateur Radio Service," said ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. The annual event draws tens of thousands of radio amateurs to the airwaves over a single weekend. Henderson said that Field Day is part emergency preparedness exercise, part public demonstration and part radio club social event: "It's really just a lot of fun and gives us a chance to get out there and show what we can do on many fronts."

ARRL Forum Schedule

Several ARRL staff members will be on hand at Dayton, presenting forums on several exciting topics. On Friday, May 15 at 10:30 AM in Room 5, Henderson and a group of other Field Day aficionados will share some helpful hints they have garnered from decades of Field Day operations. Special Field Day 2009 posters will be available to participants (while they last), as well as some special Field Day surprises. Come learn more about some of the unique and fulfilling ways groups across the US and Canada get on the air to celebrate ARRL Field Day.

ARRL Volunteer Counsel (VC) Jim O'Connell, W9WU, along with "Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur" author Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, and ARRL VC Paula Uscian, K9IR, will present "Ham Radio and the Law -- Getting It Up and Keeping It Up" on May 15 at 12:15 PM in Room 3. Join this discussion by Amateur Radio attorneys on legal issues of interest to hams on topics that include how to avoid restrictive covenants, how to present your case for a tower permit and how to defend against nuisance claims. Hear about the latest court rulings on RFI, PRB-1 and towers, as well as

updates on the ARRL's Legal Defense and Assistance Committee.

Come ask QST's very own "Doctor" your technical Amateur Radio questions in person on May 15 at 12:15 PM in Room 2. QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will provide his best answer on the spot, or get back to you shortly after the National Convention. Some questions and answers may end up in QST if they seem likely to be helpful to readers. This will be an informal sleeves-rolled-up chalk talk environment. Be sure to bring your questions!
Reaching out to the public is the life blood of Amateur Radio! From land- and property-use restrictions to recruiting, our ability to enjoy the service depends on keeping a positive image. Join ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, on May 15 at 1:30 PM in Room 2 as he introduces ARRL's PR-101 course <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10578/?nc=1>. This is a course to teach hams the basics of making -- and keeping -- a good relationship with your town and the media. If "every ham is a Public Information Officer," then every ham needs to have these skills.

Join the ARRL on Saturday, May 16 at 10:30 AM in Room 2 for an interactive session with ARRL national and regional leadership. ARRL is a membership organization -- we are here for you. Come share your ideas and ask questions.

If you've ever wanted to try digital contesting but weren't sure how to get started, we definitely have a forum for you! Join ARRL Publications Manager and digital guru Steve Ford, WB8IMY and learn how to get started in digital contesting. This forum, offered on May 16 at 1:15 PM in Room 3, will show you that you don't need to be a big-gun station with a kilowatt and a tower to have hours of on-the-air fun. All you need is a radio, a computer, an antenna -- and some helpful advice that you'll pick up at this forum! Join the thousands of hams who are already experiencing the joys of digital contesting.

Get up close and personal with Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, on Saturday, May 16 at 1:30 PM in Room 1. In October 2008, Garriott -- son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL -- fulfilled a lifelong dream to experience spaceflight and traveled to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft. While living on the ISS, he conducted scientific experiments and environmental research, but he also had a chance to do quite a bit of Amateur Radio operating, including sending slow-scan TV (SSTV) images. Owen Garriott, W5LFL, initiated the first ham radio contacts from space 26 years ago aboard the shuttle Columbia on STS-9. Richard Garriott will also be on hand at the ARRL EXPO throughout the weekend signing autographs and meeting amateurs.

At the EXPO -- and Beyond!
There is so much to do at the ARRL EXPO. Visit the huge ARRL bookstore to purchase popular ARRL publications, join or renew your ARRL membership and pick up official ARRL merchandise. Get a free gift when you join ARRL or renew your membership at ARRL EXPO and everyone gets a free ARRL Dayton 2009 button (while supplies last).

Whether you're 10 or 110, the EXPO has something just for you. Join young (and young-at-heart) amateurs at the ARRL Youth Lounge. Drop by the ARRL Youth Lounge to meet and socialize with other young hams. Come chat with other hams, listen to music, grab a snack or participate in one of the many activities, such as fox-hunts, scavenger hunts, Morse code fun, a QSL card designing contest, crafts, prizes and more. Whether or not you're licensed, you're welcome to come by and join the fun! If you're looking for other youth during the convention, try calling them on the youth calling frequencies: 145.540 MHz (107.2 Hz CTCSS) primary and 146.430 (233.6 Hz CTCSS) secondary. Not licensed yet? Soon-to-be hams can check-in using FRS channel one.

If you enjoy waxing nostalgic over the gear of yesteryear, drop by the exhibit area to meet vintage equipment photographer Joe Veras, K9OCO. He will be autographing his book, "50 Years of Amateur Radio Innovation" -- filled with photographs of classic and legendary transmitters -- that was recently published by ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0228>. You can also tour a 1964 Collins Radio Company communications van -- a Ford Econoline van that traveled as a mobile demonstration center for Collins equipment. The van, decked out with vintage gear from the S-Line period, will be there for you to explore.

Bring your license and get on the air from W1AW/8 at the ARRL National Convention. Operating times and frequencies will be posted at the station. Meet W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, from the famed Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station at ARRL Headquarters.

Personnel from the ARRL DXCC Branch will be on hand to check your DX cards and applications. All cards will be eligible for checking, including old cards, cards for deleted countries and cards for 160 meters. Applications will be limited to 120 cards (more cards will be checked as time and volunteer Card Checkers are available). See the DXCC Web site for the latest program information and current forms <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc>. Representatives from Logbook of the World (LoTW) will also be on hand, giving demonstrations and answering your questions <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>.

Be sure to stop by the EXPO to meet new IARU <http://www.iaru.org/> President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, at the IARU booth. Special exhibits in the area will be hosted by the three different IARU Regions: Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) from Germany will represent Region 1, the ARRL will represent Region 2 and the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) will represent Region 3.

Besides the myriad of activities taking place off-site such as Contest University <http://www.contestuniversity.com/> and the QRP event Four Days in May <http://www.fdim.qrparci.org/>, there will be a Wouff Hong Ceremony <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/history.html> on Saturday, May 16 at 10:45 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Dayton. Sponsored by the NE Ohio Ham Radio Players, any licensed ARRL member can participate in this lively ARRL tradition that is steeped in mystery! Attendees will receive a special keepsake at this fun activity, appropriate for all ages.

Keeping Up in Dayton

If you can't make it to Dayton -- or even if you make the trek -- you can still catch all the latest news on the Convention's Weblog <http://www.arrl.org/blog>. QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will once again be blogging about Hamvention. Proving you can indeed go home again, Steve will regale readers with the adventures of staying with his mother at his childhood home in Dayton. For the past few years, thousands of readers have been entertained as Steve has related stories about new gear making its debut at Hamvention, the weather in Dayton and the overall feel of the event -- as well as the ever-popular antics at "Casa de Mi Madre."

The ARRL will introduce a new blog at this year's National Convention: ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, will blog from a young ham's perspective. MacLachlan, who will be assisting former Youth Editor Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM, and her father Scott, KF4PWI, in the ARRL Youth Lounge, will explore the Hamvention exhibits, forums and events, giving his first-time take on the Hamvention experience. MacLachlan's perspective is a welcome addition to the ARRL National Convention team. Explore all of Hamvention's nooks and crannies through his blog and Twitter updates <http://twitter.com/arrlyouth>.

ARRL staff are getting ready for all the excitement that a National Convention brings. Teaming up with the Dayton Hamvention is sure to bring everything to a fever pitch, so why not make plans to join in on the fun? Travel and lodging information is available on the Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org/travel.php>.

==> ARRL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2009 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The ARRL Foundation <http://www.arrlf.org/> Board of Directors is pleased to announce that they have awarded 52 scholarships to students in 21 states. Of these awards, 48 are annual scholarships with a total value of $54,700. In addition there are currently four holders of the William R. Goldfarb Memorial scholarship for whom the awards vary based on the college or university they attend, other awards they receive and other financial factors.

Last month, the ARRL Foundation announced that they had awarded the William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship <http://www.arrlf.org/programs/scholarships> to Dean LaBarba, KI6CUX, of Long Beach, California. He will graduate from Woodrow Wilson High School this year with a GPA of 4.0. LaBarba holds a Technician class license that in 2005 led him to participation in the Amateur Radio Emergency Communication (AREC) team at his high school; since 2007, he has served as president. LaBarba also spends considerable time coordinating Amateur Radio activities, including Field Day, with the local community. LaBarba -- who will be attending Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California <http://www.westmont.edu/> -- has had a keen interest in medicine and intends to pursue a career in neurology.

The Goldfarb Scholarship is the result of a generous endowment from the late William Goldfarb, N2ITP. Goldfarb, who died in 1997, set up a scholarship endowment of close to $1 million in memory of his parents, Albert and Dorothy Goldfarb. Awarded to one high school senior each year, the Goldfarb Scholarship assists the recipient to receive a four-year undergraduate degree in engineering or science or in the medical or business-related fields. The terms of reference of the generous Goldfarb scholarship award require that recipients demonstrate financial need and significant involvement with Amateur Radio, in addition to high academic performance. The seventh Goldfarb Scholarship winner, LaBarba continues the tradition of prior recipients, demonstrating superior academic performance, outstanding leadership and extraordinary Amateur Radio and community service.

The ARRL Foundation administers scholarships for post-secondary education students holding a valid FCC-granted Amateur Radio license. Scholarship awards range from $500 to $5000 or more and are available to high school seniors (or equivalent) or students currently enrolled in a college or university. Scholarships are funded by generous individuals and Amateur Radio organizations to encourage radio amateurs to pursue their educational goals. All ARRL Foundation-administered scholarships are intended exclusively for educational use, to provide assistance with costs of tuition, room, board, books and/or other fees essential to the education of the recipient.

For a complete list of scholarship recipients for 2009, please visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/28/10787/?nc=1>.

==> ARRL'S TECHNICAL INFORMATION SERVICE PROVIDES MEMBERS WITH ANSWERS

Have you ever had a technical question that you weren't able to figure out? Even after checking with publications such as The ARRL Handbook or the ARRL Antenna Book, you're still stumped. Have you exhausted every resource you can think of, including your Section's Technical Coordinator (TC) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/tc.html>? Just when you think you're at the end of your rope, you remember the ARRL Technical Information Service <http://www.arrl.org/tis/>.

The TIS is staffed by members of the ARRL Lab and is here to provide technical assistance at no cost to ARRL members. Many members seem to be using the service: In a six week period (October 20-November 30, 2008), ARRL Lab staff fielded almost 1300 requests for information from the TIS. These ranged from questions on how to choose the best radio, propagation and BPL to questions concerning antennas, feed lines and towers.

ARRL TCs and Technical Specialists (TS) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/org/ts.html> in the field and at ARRL Headquarters can answer your questions on topics ranging from A (ampere) to Z (impedance) -- and just about anything in between. Our technical staff will help you over the phone, refer you to a volunteer ARRL TS in your area or send you the needed information from a growing collection of information packages. For really difficult questions, an ARRL Lab

Engineer will research the League's technical library and send you an answer by postal or electronic mail.

ARRL Lab Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, remembers a question that a member sent in recently via e-mail: "I have a 250 foot run of Buryflex 213 from the shack to the switchbox at the top of the tower. I know that results in significant loss at, say, 14 and 18 MHz (I seldom work 10 or 15 and the tower antennas are only for HF), but here is the question: Is it ENOUGH of a loss (for the receiver) to warrant running hardline (it would be free) between the shack and tower switchbox with a tail of about 10 feet of 213 inside the shack, and another tail of about 10 feet at the tower end, running from the switchbox to the TA-33, considering the insertion loss of two additional connectors (to connect the hardline to the 213 on each end) and the impedance difference of the hardline compared with the 213?"

Gruber answered the ham, providing a chart he developed, showing "some losses shown for 250 feet of RG-213 vs half-inch hardline. I selected 50, 100 and 150 ohm resistive loads for this analysis. Any rate, if you consider the case with the highest loss -- 29 MHz with a 150 ohm load -- will only improve by 3.9 - 1.544 = 2.4 dB. If you consider that a typical S-unit is 6 dB, the most dramatic improvement in the example cases I selected is still less than half of an S-unit. It's not a homerun by any stretch of the imagination. Of course, that extra 2.311 dB may be significant in some cases. If you ran 1500 W, you would only have 881 W at the antenna feed point. The rest would be lost in the feed line."

ARRL Senior Lab Engineer Zack Lau, W1VT, recalls an interesting question he received from a member: "How can I make a simple circularly polarized antenna out of linear elements?" Lau referred him to an article he wrote, "A Simple 10-Meter Satellite Turnstile Antenna," that appeared in the November/December 2001 issue of QEX.

The TIS, as one of the many services it offers, maintains a database of more than 2000 suppliers that provide goods and services of interest to radio amateurs <http://www.arrl.org/tis/tisfind.html>. These include manufacturers, dealers, publications, clubs and museums, just to name a few. The TIS also keeps what they call an "expanding list" of technical pages that include articles from QST, QEX and The ARRL Handbook, as well as original articles on a variety of subjects including theory, tutorials and projects <http://www.arrl.org/tis/tismenu.html>. Many pages also contain additional sources for materials and information and Web links of particular interest.

If you need a copy of the QST Product Review from May 1985 that featured the ICOM IC-271A 2 meter multimode transceiver, look no further. The TIS also keeps a list of every QST Product Review published since 1970 <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/prodrev.html>. ARRL members can also download any QST Product review published after 1980 <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/prodrev/bymfg.html>. If you need a quick summary of any HF transceiver featured in a QST Product Review,

you can also find it on the TIS Web site.

The TIS also maintains the ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/qqnsearch.html>. This feature provides ARRL members with PDF copies of all QST articles from December 1915 through December 2005, enabling members to view and print their favorite article, project and more. The ARRL Periodicals Archive and Search lists every article for QST from 1915 to the present, QEX from 1981 to the present, Ham Radio Magazine from 1968 to 1990 and NCJ from 1973 to the present (please note that beginning in 1998, each issue of QEX covers two months).

"Having access to every issue of QST through 2005 is absolutely incredible!" said ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. "The best of the best of QST from every era is now at the fingertips of every ARRL member with a keyboard and an Internet connection. Members can research articles on any subject that interests them, or just browse the past issues. This valuable content will help radio amateurs who use QST as a technical resource -- for projects, equipment 'hints and kinks' -- and for other research contributing to the advancement of the radio art."

For those needing a higher quality reprint, a reprint from QEX or NCJ, or for hams who are not members of the ARRL, the TIS also provides photocopies of articles for a nominal fee <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/artcopies.html>. You can reach the TIS via e-mail <mailto:tis@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0214.

The TIS is just one of the many benefits available to ARRL members. To learn about all the benefits of ARRL membership, including QST, e-mail forwarding service, the outgoing QSL service and more, please visit the ARRL Membership Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of April.

The ARRL worked with Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) as she sponsored HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, in the US House of Representatives <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>.

Upon request from the FCC, the ARRL submitted comments to the Commission defining "broadband" <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/15/10768/?nc=1>.

The ARRL Foundation awarded scholarships, including the prestigious William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship, to 49 outstanding young radio amateurs for the 2009-2010 academic year <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/28/10787/?nc=1>.

Santa Cruz area ARES members provided communications support after vandals disrupted communications infrastructure on April 9 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/15/10771/?nc=1>.

Amateurs in North Dakota and Minnesota provided communications support to various served agencies when the Red River overflowed in late March and early April <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/06/10752/?nc=1>.

Hams in the Southeastern US, through the use of weather spotting networks, kept the National Weather Service apprised when deadly tornadoes struck that area on April 10 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/14/10766/?nc=1>.

The ARRL announced that it was in the process of developing a new Emergency Communications course <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/07/10756/?nc=1>.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, attended the 2009 National Hurricane Conference, held April 6-10 in Austin, Texas. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, represented the ARRL at the National Association of Broadcasters event in Las Vegas <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/22/10779/?nc=1>.

Thomas Dick, KF2GC, of Saranac Lake, returns as Section Manager of the ARRL Northern New York Section <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8903>. Scott Rausch, WA0VKC, of Piedmont, was appointed Section Manager of the ARRL South Dakota Section as of April 7 <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8882>.

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for April is Byron Black, W4SSY, for his article "The W4SSY Spudgun."

The June 2009 issue of QST and the May/June issues of QEX and NCJ were released to the printer.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "He smiles upon their sunny faces" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The data at the end of last week's bulletin showed daily sunspot numbers from April 16-22 as six zeros, then 11. In fact, every day was at zero until April 21, when it was 11; it moved again to zero the next day, April 22. We had just as many zero sunspot days -- and only one day with a sunspot -- but we saw the sunspot on Tuesday, April 21, not April 22. We had two additional days with a sunspot this week, Wednesday and Thursday, April 29-30. The sunspot number was 15 and 12, respectively, on those days. But this was another old Solar Cycle 23 sunspot, and it appeared near the western limb. By today, it may have either faded away completely or rotated out of view, May 1. The data at the bottom of our bulletin shows seven days, Thursday through Wednesday for the reporting week, so the sunspot number of 12 for Thursday will appear in next week's data. Sunspot numbers for April 23-29 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 15 with a mean of 2.1. The 10.7 cm flux was 70.6, 69.7, 69.4, 69.2, 67.7, 68.8 and 69.5 with a mean of 69.3. The estimated planetary A

indices were 3, 5, 4, 5, 4, 2 and 3 with a mean of 3.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 0, 5, 2, 3, 3, 2 and 3 with a mean of 2.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Clare's "May" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/may-2/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the NCCC Sprint Ladder and the AGCW QRP/QRP Party are May 1. The Microwave Spring Sprint is May 2 (local time). The MARAC QSO Party (both CW and SSB), the 10-10 International Spring Contest (both CW and digital), the 7th Call Area QSO Party, the Indiana QSO Party, the New England QSO Party and the ARI International DX Contest are all May 2-3. Next week is another running of the NCCC Sprint Ladder on May 8. The FISTS Spring Sprint is May 9. On May 9-10, look for the SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest (local time), the CQ-M International DX Contest, the VOLTA WW RTTY Contest, the Nevada Mustang Roundup and the 50 MHz Spring Sprint. The SKCC Weekend Sprint is May 10. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 24, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 5, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News on May 15: Due to staff attendance at the ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention, there will be no ARRL Audio News on May 15. The ARRL Letter will be distributed that day. ARRL Audio News will resume regular distribution on May 22.

* Larry Banks, W1DYJ, Wins April QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for April is Larry Banks, W1DYJ, for his article "A 20 Meter Moxon Antenna." Congratulations, Larry! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the May issue by Sunday, May 31.

* ARRL Sweepstakes Awards Sent: The ARRL Contest Branch reports that all special items for the 2008 November Sweepstakes have been sent. This includes a Clean Sweep Broom and Medallion for all entrants who worked a confirmed Clean Sweep and a magnet for all stations that worked a confirmed 75 ARRL Sections. These items were sent free of charge to all stations that qualified; no order was necessary. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, all Clean Sweep mugs and Participation Pin orders have also been shipped. If you have not received your Sweepstakes items yet, please let Kutzko know via e-mail <kx9x@arrl.org>.

* ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Two 2009 Operations: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that two 2009 operations have been approved for DXCC credit: Western Sahara (S04R) and North Cook Island (E51QQQ). "If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org> and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

* Internet Search Engine Celebrates Birthday of Samuel F. B. Morse: Internet search engine Google <http://www.google.com/> reconfigured their home page for April 27 to honor the 218th birthday of Morse code creator Samuel F. B. Morse (April 27, 1791-April 2, 1872). Morse, a native of Charlestown, Massachusetts, conceived the basic idea of an electromagnetic telegraph in 1832. Experiments with various kinds of electrical instruments and codes resulted in a demonstration of a working telegraph set in 1836 and introduction of the circuit relay, making transmission possible over any distance. With his creation with Alfred Vail of the American Morse code, the historic message "What hath God wrought?" was successfully sent from Washington to Baltimore. For more information Amateur Radio and Morse code, please visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/learncw/>.

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The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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170. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-02 12:31:58 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <ac4231bf-43e8-4328-815c-1b367b9ed025@h23g2000vbc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2080

On Apr 30, 11:05 pm, K HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:

(N2EY wrote):
> > It strikes me as somewhat illogical that utility companies
> > can put up
> > poles 50 or more feet tall with wires, transformers,
> > insulators and
> > all kinds of hardware on them, yet when a ham
> > wants "a tower", it's
> > somehow going to ruin the neighborhood.
>
> Keeping in context here, Jim, the developments
> which restrict towers, etc.,
> generally also have buried utilities.
>
Not necessarily, Hans. I've seen more than a few developments with aerial utilities that have no-antenna restrictions. In much of the country, anti-antenna rules have been the norm for new construction for 30-odd years; just part of the boilerplate. There's a development just down the road from me that is at least 35 years old, aerial utilities, lots of nice trees - and no antennas allowed.

> The "way around" this is to simply live in a neighborhood
> without such
> restrictions. Both my homes are in "nice" urban
> neighborhoods, and neither
> has any private antenna structure restrictions beyond
> normal city zoning
> laws. You just have to look a little harder.

That's great for where you live, but things vary widely across the country. The rules are often completely unreasonable, forbidding not just towers but simple wire and vertical antennas that are not offensive at all. IMHO, such unreasonable restrictions are a prime cause of lack of growth in our numbers, particularly among young people who don't get to choose where they live.

73 de Jim, N2EY

171. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-02 14:43:48 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <s_YKl.552$vj3.395@newsfe01.iad>
Source record: 2081

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:
> On Apr 30, 11:05 pm, K HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
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>> The "way around" this is to simply live in a neighborhood
>> without such
>> restrictions. Both my homes are in "nice" urban
>> neighborhoods, and neither
>> has any private antenna structure restrictions beyond
>> normal city zoning
>> laws. You just have to look a little harder.
>
> That's great for where you live, but things vary widely across the
> country. The rules are often completely unreasonable, forbidding
> not just towers but simple wire and vertical antennas that are not
> offensive at all. IMHO, such unreasonable restrictions are a
> prime cause of lack of growth in our numbers, particularly among
> young people who don't get to choose where they live.

I think you've hit on one of the real difficulties with these blasted things, Jim. Many of us entered amateur radio when we were kids. Not many of us put up towers or beam antennas. We used wires or aluminum verticals. We lived where our parents lived. We didn't necessarily live at the top of some hill and we didn't necessarily have high trees, spaced just right. We happened to become interested in amateur radio and our situations were not of our making. The same situation applies

to an adult who has already bought in a subdivision which is encumbered with antenna restrictions in the CC&R's.

The boilerplate language of the CC&R's looks like something which is just there, without particular reasoning behind it.

I've never lived in such a development and I never will.

Dave K8MN
living free in rural West Virginia

172. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-03 22:08:20 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <cca5f5dc-4b20-453b-8e04-95b498838eb7@z5g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2082

On May 2, 10:43 am, Dave Heil <k...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> I think you've hit on one of the real difficulties with these blasted
> things, Jim. Many of us entered amateur radio when we were kids.
Not
> many of us put up towers or beam antennas. We used wires or alum
inum
> verticals. We lived where our parents lived. We didn't
necessarily
> live at the top of some hill and we didn't necessarily have high trees,
> spaced just right. We happened to become interested in amateur r
adio
> and our situations were not of our making. The same situation ap
plies
> to an adult who has already bought in a subdivision which is encumbered
> with antenna restrictions in the CC&R's.

You had aluminum? Luxury....

(google "Four Yorkshiremen" for the rest).

The main point is that we were able to get some sort of usable HF
antenna up and working in short order without major expense and it was
no big deal for anyone.

That no-big-deal environment was a critical factor in our success as
hams. With a simple dipole or random wire, we could work the world
with very simple, low-powered equipment on bands such as 80 and 40
meters. Many beginners, young and old, started out with homebrew,
converted surplus, used or kit rigs, and worked their way up,
learning
as they went.

Today we often have the tail-wagging-the-dog scenario of an expensive
multiband multimode transceiver connected to an antenna that is, at
best, an extreme compromise.

Or no usable antenna at all.

> The boilerplate language of the CC&R's looks like something which is
> just there, without particular reasoning behind it.

It's simpler and less expensive to use proven, stock documents than to
write special ones for each property.

> I've never lived in such a development and I never will.

I have, but only as a renter, which is a whole different situation. Being
limited in what you can do to someone else's property is very different
from being limited in what you can do with your own.

I hope I never have to live in a restricted place. But who knows what the future could bring?

One trend I find particularly alarming is the expansion of no-antenna and other restrictions to existing, well-established neighborhoods and homes. For example, until recently it was common in my area for developers to buy "older" homes (from the 1950s or so) on good-sized lots, tear them down, and put up large 'McMansion' style houses loaded with restrictions. Or, they would do a major addition and renovation to an existing house, and tack on lots of restrictions before selling. Unless the first buyer objected and had them removed, those restrictions would exist essentially forever.

I'm not talking about townhomes and condos, either, but about single-family houses on lots of three quarters of an acre or more, costing $600K and up when renovated/replaced.

As that process went on, the supply of unrestricted homes that an average person could even dream of buying shrank dramatically, because it was the most-affordable homes that were torn down first. And in a good established neighborhood, the number of homes on the market in a given amount of time is often quite small.

Note that anti-CC&R and anti-HOA movements are popping up in various parts of the USA over other issues, so it's not as if we hams are the only ones with the problem.

73 de Jim, N2EY

173. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-04 02:51:05 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <b9282321-b60c-4496-9e58-a533e349add2@y34g2000prb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2083

On May 3, 5:08 pm, N...@AOL.COM wrote:
>
> Note that anti-CC&R and anti-HOA movements are popping up in various
> parts of the USA over other issues, so it's not as if we hams are the
> only ones with the problem.
>

But the HOA lobby has a lot of money behind it too. Some of the anti-HOA groups are out on the fringe of this and don't have the resources that all the management companies have. (You know, all those companies that "manage" the HOA's money, send out the bills, keep the accounts and cash the checks while charging pretty high fees.) Personally, I don't see the movement being very successful and I don't think that the ham radio community needs to hitch their wagon to the movement yet. Folks are inclined to think we are a bit strange to start with.

Did anybody see the ARRL's announcement late last week about the bill that got introduced at the federal level? I hope I'm wrong, but I don't think the bill will see the light of day and die in committee, but I think that this is the approach we should be taking. We are a free of cost backup emergency communication system that operates locally, nationally as well as world wide and forcing some "reasonable" rules would be a cheap way to support this system.

-= Bob =-

174. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-04 11:49:02 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <5OSdnd6XTqB4-WPUnZ2dnUVZ_gydnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2084

KC4UAI wrote:
> On May 3, 5:08 pm, N...@AOL.COM wrote:
>> Note that anti-CC&R and anti-HOA movements are popping up in various
>> parts of the USA over other issues, so it's not as if we hams are the
>> only ones with the problem.
>>
>
> But the HOA lobby has a lot of money behind it too. Some of the anti-
> HOA groups are out on the fringe of this and don't have the resources
> that all the management companies have. (You know, all those companies
> that "manage" the HOA's money, send out the bills, keep the accounts
> and cash the checks while charging pretty high fees.) Personally, I
> don't see the movement being very successful and I don't think that
> the ham radio community needs to hitch their wagon to the movement
> yet. Folks are inclined to think we are a bit strange to start with.

I've never understood why CC&R clauses are so popular in some areas. I can't imagine that my neighbors care about what antennas I put up: if I want to erect a tower, there are local zoning ordinances to assure their safety, and I'd have to have insurance (or post a bond) anyway.

I must be missing something. Are CC&R's placed on deeds for a purpose I don't understand?

--
Bill Horne, W1AC

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

175. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-04 11:49:18 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <e03df35e-e534-41a4-a876-2b9184433771@g20g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2085

On May 3, 10:51 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:

> But the HOA lobby has a lot of money behind it too. Some of the
anti-
> HOA groups are out on the fringe of this and don't have the resources
> that all the management companies have.

Agreed. Point is, we're not the only ones, that's all I'm saying.

> I hope I'm wrong, but I
> don't think the bill will see the light of day and die in committee,
> but I think that this is the approach we should be taking. We are a
> free of cost backup emergency communication system that operates
> locally, nationally as well as world wide and forcing some
> "reasonable" rules would be a cheap way to support this system.
>
Yes, those bills are a good thing.

However, I'm a bit concerned about all the emphasis on emergency
communications.

With all due respect to those amateurs who provide public service
communications, particularly in emergencies, not all hams are set up
for it. I think that overselling the emergency angle could backfire,
in that the community could easily have unrealistic expectations of
what the ham in their neighborhood could do in an emergency
situation.

I think the emphasis should be that Amateur Radio is a unique and
perfectly normal spare-time activity pursued by over half a million
Americans, with many different interests and activities. And that it's
not unreasonable to have antennas on or near your house.

73 de Jim, N2EY

176. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-04 14:39:14 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <61b4f470-3165-463a-ad85-cfeff95c23ad@s20g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2086
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 4, 7:49 am, Bill Horne wrote:

> I've never understood why CC&R clauses are so popular in some areas.

They've been around for a very long time; my 1950 house has a page and a half of them. Nothing about antennas.

In many cases, they were originally created to deal with situations that zoning did not address, or where zoning did not exist at all. Many parts of the USA are still unzoned, or the zoning is very basic, without a lot of rules and specifications.

The big reason for the no-antennas rules is cable TV. Starting in the 1970s, it became common for developers to work out a deal with cable-TV providers to prewire all the homes for cable during construction, and to include no-antennas clauses. This resulted in a lot of customers for cable TV in places where rabbit ears wouldn't work well. And like many things, they gradually became accepted as part of the general background.

In some parts of the USA, there has been a lot of growth in the past couple of decades, with lots of homes built by developers who routinely included all sorts of restrictions. In such places it can be very difficult to find an unrestricted home for sale.

> I
> can't imagine that my neighbors care about what antennas I put up: if I
> want to erect a tower, there are local zoning ordinances to assure their
> safety, and I'd have to have insurance (or post a bond) anyway.

In many places, the neighbors DO care. People have all kinds of ideas about what affects property values, what their neighborhoods should look like, health hazards of "radiation" and so forth. You and I are used to seeing antennas and towers, but many people aren't, and as more and more places become "no visible antenna" zones, more and more people consider *any* antennas unacceptable, let alone towers.

> I must be missing something. Are CC&R's placed on deeds for a purpose I
> don't understand?

See above. New home developments often take the form of large houses on small lots with no trees, shrubs or other visual screening, so a tower is visible to many neighbors, and really sticks out.

IMHO one of the big things is fear. Fear that people won't behave in reasonable ways - what we used to call "being a good neighbor". So all

sorts of rules and restrictions are put in place in an attempt to force good-neighbor behavior.

73 de Jim, N2EY

177. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-04 15:51:09 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <184cfc84-5c7e-46bb-8c63-f0175def5684@p4g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2087
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 4, 6:49 am, Bill Horne wrote:
>
> I must be missing something. Are CC&R's placed on deeds for a purpose I
> don't understand?

There are lots of reasons for CC&R's and even a few reasons for having HOA's. They do provide some useful services and can be helpful in keeping things looking nice. The problems they cause can be worse than the ones they solve.

Builders generally don't care about their developments beyond the point where they've sold the last house or lot. In the case of my CC&R's which run nearly 60 pages, nearly 40 pages deal with what the HOA is empowered to do (fees, fines and the like) and how the builder is in total control of the HOA until they have sold nearly all the lots. There are no provisions for changes and the CC&R's live forever, which will eventually be a problem. But the builders just have boilerplate documents that they use for this stuff. I know my builder used the same general deed restrictions in at least 3 different subdivisions that where all filed in the same year as mine. Except for some legal property descriptions, they are essentially exactly the same.

I think what got the antenna restrictions put into the boiler plate deed restrictions was two things. First, the craze to watch TV before cable required some pretty nasty looking antennas to be put up. Add to that all the 2 Meter dishes that where popping up for TV. Somebody figured that with the advent of cable TV, who needed that unsightly mess so somebody had the bright idea of restricting them using deed restrictions. Second, there was the huge and popular CB craze of the 70's. Some folks took the "let's defy authority" part of all that a bit too far and pushed up some pretty ugly antenna systems to handle all that extra power. Of course it looked bad and could make a mess of TV's for miles but on 11 Meters you could talk "skip" to some far away places if you had enough signal. Few cared if it was legal because almost everybody got away with it. Some ham radio operators pushed up some nasty looking things that could mess up TV's too so we all got dumped into the same group.

Somebody figured that all this stuff in the air looked bad and because this stuff messed up TV reception it was worthy of being banished. After all, it obviously lowered land values, just like that house up the street with the yard of dandi-lions nearly 6 inches high around the rusting 75 AMC Pacer sans the engine on blocks in the driveway of

the house that got half a coat of purple paint applied over the bright yellow that nobody liked before the owner ran out of energy nearly 7 years ago.

Problem was that the "no antenna" restrictions pretty much made the business model of companies like "Dish Network" unworkable and the advent of "high speed" data services so they went to the FCC and got the OTARD rules.

I think HOA's have their purpose.. (Grin)

-= Bob =-

178. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-04 18:46:59 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <j3o3d6-3kh.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2088

In article <5OSdnd6XTqB4-WPUnZ2dnUVZ_gydnZ2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:

>I must be missing something. Are CC&R's placed on deeds for a purpose I
>don't understand?

I believe that the basic underlying idea of CC&Rs is to establish a neighborhood having a consistent character, and ensure that property owners maintain that character. It's sort of a private extension to zoning rules.

To some people (perhaps many people) the overall "look and feel" of a residential neighborhood is a big part of its value, and contributes to both the pleasure of living there, and to making sure that the resale values of the homes/properties in the neighborhood aren't dragged down by a handful of careless/sloppy/eccentric homeowners.

At the milder end of the spectrum, it's just about ensuring reasonable maintenance of the properties (e.g. paint in good condition, lawn not allowed to go to seeds&weeds, absence of fourteen stripped-down cars parked at odd angles in the driveway), no loud or street parties without prior approval by the HOA, etc.

At the more extreme end of the spectrum, it sometimes feels as if the HOA wants everybody to live in a fascist Stepford-looking pseudo-Disneyland, with every house painted in one of four approved detail color schemes and every lawn hand-trimmed on Thursday to an approved length. Put an unapproved lawn ornament anywhere in view, and end up with a visit by the local HOA brownshirts...

At the really nasty end, there are still a lot of properties which carry a title restriction which forbids their sale to anyone who is not of Caucasian "race", or specifically forbid their sale to blacks, Hispanics, Chinese, etc. Back in The Day, these restrictions were seen as a way of "preserving the character of the neighborhood."

These particular restrictions haven't been enforceable in around 50 years, but they're still carried in the CC&R on the title, because it's difficult and expensive to have them formally (and individually) declared null-and-void by a court and removed from the title.

I understand that these days, it has become difficult for a developer to get commercial financing to build a new development unless a fairly strong set of CC&Rs are written into the deeds. The banks which provide the funding apparently feel that having a responsible HOA and a strong set of CC&Rs makes the homes easier to sell, and thus helps ensure that the developer won't go bust before selling the properties

and leave the bank stuck with dozens of un-sold homes as collateral.

I suspect that the actual set of CC&Rs used in these cases are pulled out of a binder of standardized examples, rather than being discussed intelligently... and things like the "no antennas" rule have become part of the standard (even if this particular rule is nearly unenforceable due to the OTARD law and the implementing regulations).

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

179. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-05 22:12:50 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <gtqdkf07db@news2.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2089

Dave Platt wrote:
> At the really nasty end, there are still a lot of properties which
> carry a title restriction which forbids their sale to anyone who is
> not of Caucasian "race", or specifically forbid their sale to blacks,
> Hispanics, Chinese, etc. Back in The Day, these restrictions were
> seen as a way of "preserving the character of the neighborhood."
>
> These particular restrictions haven't been enforceable in around 50
> years, but they're still carried in the CC&R on the title, because
> it's difficult and expensive to have them formally (and individually)
> declared null-and-void by a court and removed from the title.

Well, that's an interesting thought. "Equal protection under the law."
If I they won't enforce the race clause, why should the antenna clause
have any more weight?

I am reminded of a political cartoon from back in the early '70s.
The set up was a "do it yourself US Constitution Kit" which comprised
a copy of the constitution and pair of scissors. The idea being you
could just cut out the parts you didn't like.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

180. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-05 22:21:14 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <f9dd80e8-648e-48fd-b6c8-571542c00add@u10g2000vbd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2090

On May 4, 11:51 am, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Builders generally don't care about their developments beyond the
> point where they've sold the last house or lot.

I don't think that's generally the case. At least around here, builders are interested in their reputation, and view completed developments as free advertising. The last thing they want is for a development that went sour to be associated with their name! (And the media doesn't forget who built what, even years later).

> There are no provisions for changes and the CC&R's live
> forever, which will eventually be a problem. But the builders just
> have boilerplate documents that they use for this stuff.

Such things take the burden off local governments - which IMHO is wrong, because zoning and nuisance ordinances are one of the prime functions of local government.

> I think what got the antenna restrictions put into the boiler plate
> deed restrictions was two things. First, the craze to watch TV before
> cable required some pretty nasty looking antennas to be put up. Add
> to that all the 2 Meter dishes that where popping up for TV. Somebody
> figured that with the advent of cable TV, who needed that unsightly
> mess so somebody had the bright idea of restricting them using deed
> restrictions. Second, there was the huge and popular CB craze of the
> 70's.

I disagree on both counts.

What pushed no-antennas CC&Rs was cable TV, plain and simple. At least all the info I have points to that. TV antennas aren't that big!

However, the secondary effect was to create communities where the no-antennas look was considered normal.

73 de Jim, N2EY

181. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-05 23:20:00 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <n4u6d6-nv.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 2091

In article <gtqdkf07db@news2.newsguy.com>,
Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote:

>> At the really nasty end, there are still a lot of properties which
>> carry a title restriction which forbids their sale to anyone who is
>> not of Caucasian "race", or specifically forbid their sale to blacks,
>> Hispanics, Chinese, etc. Back in The Day, these restrictions were
>> seen as a way of "preserving the character of the neighborhood."
>>
>> These particular restrictions haven't been enforceable in around 50
>> years, but they're still carried in the CC&R on the title, because
>> it's difficult and expensive to have them formally (and individually)
>> declared null-and-void by a court and removed from the title.
>
>Well, that's an interesting thought. "Equal protection under the law."
>If I they won't enforce the race clause, why should the antenna clause
>have any more weight?

Because the laws are different.

In the case of racially-oriented covenants: it's forbidden under the
Constitution to discriminate against people on the basis of their race
or national origin, and the courts have ruled that enforcing such a
covenant is thus contrary to law.

In the case of TV antennas, Congress passed a law which specifically
overrides zoning rules and private contracts (including CC&Rs) which
might forbid certain types of TV antenna installation.

Neither of these situations apply to ham antennas.

It is *not* forbidden to discriminate against certain types of
antennas (antennas are not people).

It is *not* forbidden to discriminate against a person's use of a
specific type of antenna (since the use of specific types of antenna
doesn't define a "protected class" in the Constitution).

>I am reminded of a political cartoon from back in the early '70s.
>The set up was a "do it yourself US Constitution Kit" which comprised
>a copy of the constitution and pair of scissors. The idea being you
>could just cut out the parts you didn't like.

In this case, though, the part that we might *want* to have present
in the Constitution, simply isn't there to begin with. It isn't
necessary for anyone to "cut it out" if they don't like it.

Congress *could* add reasonable protection for the use of ham antennas to Federal law (just as they did for TV, satellite, and "fixed wireless services" antennas.). To date, Congress has declined to do so... and in the absence of a Congressional mandate, the FCC has declined to extend the existing protections beyond what Congress had clearly indicated ought to be protected.

I imagine that the FCC expects that if they were to do so, their regulations would be challenged in Federal court, and that the FCC would lose the court fight.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

182. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-06 00:07:33 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <ff9be605-3fac-41ba-adcb-aba85f294d8e@o20g2000vbh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2092

On May 5, 6:12 pm, Jeffrey D Angus <jan...@socal.rr.com> wrote:

> If I they won't enforce the race clause, why should the antenna clause
> have any more weight?

I-am-not-a-lawyer, but AFAIK:

They can't enforce the race clause because it's been declared illegal and/or judged unconstitutional. Except for broadcast-TV reception antennas, the same does not apply to antennas.

CC&Rs and such come under the heading of "private contracts". A fundamental US legal principle is that you can't have a legally enforceable contract to do something illegal or unconstitutional.

For example, if A contracts with B to paint A's house, and pays in advance, but B doesn't do the job, A can sue to get his money back, and the courts will enforce the contract.

But if A contracts with B to commit arson at A's house, (say, for insurance fraud purposes) and pays in advance, but B doesn't do the job, A cannot sue to get his money back. The courts will not enforce the contract because it's for something illegal.

73 de Jim, N2EY

183. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-06 11:37:07 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <apudnUBZgZ_oR53XnZ2dnUVZ_tSdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2093

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

> But if A contracts with B to commit arson at A's house, (say, for
> insurance fraud purposes) and pays in advance, but B doesn't do the job,
> A cannot sue to get his money back. The courts will not enforce the
> contract because it's for something illegal.

If you ever saw some of the "Frank Lloyd Wrong" monstrosities around my
QTH, you'd question that doctrine in a great many cases!

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

184. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-06 11:37:52 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <crOdnUZe56OBfZ3XnZ2dnUVZ_hWdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2094

Jeffrey D Angus wrote:
> Dave Platt wrote:
>> At the really nasty end, there are still a lot of properties which
>> carry a title restriction which forbids their sale to anyone who is
>> not of Caucasian "race", or specifically forbid their sale to blacks,
>> Hispanics, Chinese, etc. Back in The Day, these restrictions were
>> seen as a way of "preserving the character of the neighborhood."
>>
>> These particular restrictions haven't been enforceable in around 50
>> years, but they're still carried in the CC&R on the title, because
>> it's difficult and expensive to have them formally (and individually)
>> declared null-and-void by a court and removed from the title.
>
> Well, that's an interesting thought. "Equal protection under the law."
> If I they won't enforce the race clause, why should the antenna clause
> have any more weight?
>
> I am reminded of a political cartoon from back in the early '70s.
> The set up was a "do it yourself US Constitution Kit" which comprised
> a copy of the constitution and pair of scissors. The idea being you
> could just cut out the parts you didn't like.

Well, the courts _are_ enforcing the "race" claus, but I won't debate
semantics.

The question is if the private contract which prevents me from erecting
an antenna interferes with a legitimate function of government, i.e.,
the obligation to ensure that all citizens have access to the
information, debates, opinions, and court rulings they need to perform
their civic duty: in the case of TV antennas or Internet access
antennas, my obligation to be a well-informed voter overrides the
contract. In the case of Amateur antennas, my hobby doesn't (in the
court's view) merit protection.

There is a larger issue, and the more I think about the whole CC&R
problem, the less comfortable I am with the concept: sooner or later,
the "unencumbered" housing stock dwindles to the point where ham
operators who want to erect an exterior antenna are confined to
less-desirable older neighborhoods, which affects their social status
and economic well-being.

W1AC

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

185. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-06 11:55:12 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <54883e70-8c1f-4c57-8ffa-731dae62b629@q2g2000vbr.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2095
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 6, 7:37 am, Bill Horne wrote:
>
> The question is if the private contract which prevents me from erecting
> an antenna interferes with a legitimate function of government, i.e.,
> the obligation to ensure that all citizens have access to the
> information, debates, opinions, and court rulings they need to perform
> their civic duty: in the case of TV antennas or Internet access
> antennas, my obligation to be a well-informed voter overrides the
> contract. In the case of Amateur antennas, my hobby doesn't (in the
> court's view) merit protection.

I-am-not-a-lawyer, but I don't think that's the basis of the
OTARD ruling. Cable TV almost universally carries local
TV stations.

AFAIK, the reason the Supremes ruled the way they did was
that the no-antennas clauses could in many cases create
a de-facto monopoly for the cable TV companies by excluding
the pizza-dish satellite and free-broadcast-TV folks. Interstate
commerce, free market and all that.

But amateur radio is by definition noncommercial, so we're not
included. FCC could only do what the Court told them to do.

> There is a larger issue, and the more I think about the whole CC&R
> problem, the less comfortable I am with the concept: sooner or later,
> the "unencumbered" housing stock dwindles to the point where ham
> operators who want to erect an exterior antenna are confined to
> less-desirable older neighborhoods, which affects their social status
> and economic well-being.
>
I agree with the concern but disagree that older housing is
less-desirable. In my area, unrestricted houses consistently
sell for *higher* prices, and sell faster, than restricted ones
of comparable size.

The problem is that, as you say, the supply will continue to
dwindle as more and more of the housing stock is restricted.
And you can only buy houses that are for sale in a given
area.

73 de Jim, N2EY

186. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-06 22:08:05 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <leSdnVOo6tV2lZ_XnZ2dnUVZ_radnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2096
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:
> On May 6, 7:37 am, Bill Horne wrote:
>> The question is if the private contract which prevents me from erectin
g
>> an antenna interferes with a legitimate function of government, i.e.,
>> the obligation to ensure that all citizens have access to the
>> information, debates, opinions, and court rulings they need to perform
>> their civic duty: in the case of TV antennas or Internet access
>> antennas, my obligation to be a well-informed voter overrides the
>> contract. In the case of Amateur antennas, my hobby doesn't (in the
>> court's view) merit protection.
>
> I-am-not-a-lawyer, but I don't think that's the basis of the
> OTARD ruling. Cable TV almost universally carries local
> TV stations.
>
> AFAIK, the reason the Supremes ruled the way they did was
> that the no-antennas clauses could in many cases create
> a de-facto monopoly for the cable TV companies by excluding
> the pizza-dish satellite and free-broadcast-TV folks. Interstate
> commerce, free market and all that.

If that's the case (pun intended), I'm even more scared. Although
the Supreme Court may have wanted to prevent a monopoly in
distribution of TV signals, I would be much more comfortable if
their ruling was to prevent a monopoly in the _choice_ of TV
programs.

That might be a distinction that makes no difference. Any lawyers
on the list?

>
> But amateur radio is by definition noncommercial, so we're not
> included. FCC could only do what the Court told them to do.

Well, yes, we're devoid of pecuniary interest, but not of political
interest. If I choose to discuss politics on ham radio, why isn't
that sufficiently important to merit protection from arbitrary restrictio
n?

Before r.r.a.m. readers kneejerk and say "But CC&R's are contracts!",
I'll explain that CC&R's awaken a monster called "Social Contract" that
has been sleeping for a long time. Sufficient to say, AFAICT the idea is
that a free man is entitled to bargain away his freedom, and that's

not something our society has chosen to allow.

If the OTARD rules applied only to TV antennas or one-way satellite
dishes, I'd be able to make an argument that hams, as a class, were
being denied the chance to debate the issues of the day. However,
the rules also prohibit CC&R restrictions on wireless Internet
access (presumably WiMAX, although there may be others), so I'm left
with the argument that a restriction on _any_ means of expressing
my political opinion should be prevented.

>> There is a larger issue, and the more I think about the whole CC&R
>> problem, the less comfortable I am with the concept: sooner or later,
>> the "unencumbered" housing stock dwindles to the point where ham
>> operators who want to erect an exterior antenna are confined to
>> less-desirable older neighborhoods, which affects their social status
>> and economic well-being.
>>

> I agree with the concern but disagree that older housing is
> less-desirable. In my area, unrestricted houses consistently
> sell for *higher* prices, and sell faster, than restricted ones
> of comparable size.
>
> The problem is that, as you say, the supply will continue to
> dwindle as more and more of the housing stock is restricted.
> And you can only buy houses that are for sale in a given
> area.

Point taken, but we're saying the same thing with different words.
I meant "lacking CC&R restrictions", not "aged". The problem is
that the supply of available land around major cities is at or
near to exhaustion , and developers have been buying up and
leveling old factories, warehouse, and even older housing
stock in order to keep the supply of McMansions constant.
If they're adding deed restrictions as a matter of routine,
then it's only a matter of time before that's all that's
available.

73,

Bill, W1AC

P.S. I wonder if M.A.R.S. has (or could get) the authority to
override CC&R restrictions. If that's so, then they're sitting
on the proverbial gold mine ...

--
Bill Horne

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

187. How to write CC&R's

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-07 04:17:48 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <891949e0-6581-4f60-bcc5-1da5f78ff311@s31g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2097

All,

I need some advice.

I've been given the opportunity to draft a architectural guideline for my HOA and I was planning to "adjust" the antenna policy because it is unenforceable as written in the current guideline document because of the OTARD rules. The Architectural guidelines are authorized by the deed restrictions, which contain a restriction on antennas but seems to be drafted to not conflict with the OTARD rules.

I am asking for a way to word a guideline that is within the OTARD guidelines for TV and Data services but also allows some kind of reasonable antenna support structures for ham radio use.

What is reasonable? Personally, I'm not thinking I could get them to agree to allow a 30' tower with a beam, but I'd like to get some kind of support structure I could put a vertical on top of and hang wire antennas from. Something like 10' above the roof would be nice... But I'm sure they won't go for that, perhaps we could get them to agree to 3' of structure (excluding the antenna) visible from the street?

Is there a way to make it apply only to amateur radio operators that doesn't draw too much attention to the policy?

I suspect that they might go for it if I can demonstrate that there won't be a bunch of towers going up and if most of the things they allow are nearly unseen. Currently there are only two licensed hams in the subdivision.

Anybody have any suggestions for this?

-= bob =-

188. Re: How to write CC&R's

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-07 16:20:36 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <a13b4f95-cf31-4daf-95f6-caa81c346995@s28g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2098

>
> What is reasonable?
On May 7, 12:17 am, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
IMHO, that depends on what the development looks like. Scale, visual screening, and other factors all come into play. Distance to neighbors and overall visibility come into play as well.

Is the development condos? Townhouses? Duplexes? Single family homes? How big are the lots? Are there trees, fences, etc.?

> Personally, I'm not thinking I could get them to
> agree to allow a 30' tower with a beam, but I'd like to get some kind
> of support structure I could put a vertical on top of and hang wire
> antennas from. Something like 10' above the roof would be nice... But
> I'm sure they won't go for that, perhaps we could get them to agree to
> 3' of structure (excluding the antenna) visible from the street?

Why wouldn't they agree to a ten or fifteen foot mast to hold a wire antenna or small beam?

It seems to me that the absolute minimum that should be accepted is what the OTARD ruling allows. But you don't start there; you start with more in order to have some room to negotiate. Ask for the sun, accept the moon.

Let *them* defend their requirements - don't do it for them. Consider what you would put up if all the restrictions were removed, and propose that.

Wire antennas and masts, if done right, do not stick out visually. I've had TV mast holding the center of an 80/40 inverted V at two different QTHs, and no non-ham has even noticed them until they were pointed out. Of course the masts are painted gray, the coax is gray and so is all the hardware, while the halyard and insulators are white. The antenna wire is #12 but a dull color.

Verticals can be done similarly.

I would not use the word "tower" anywhere - spoken or written. "Antenna support structure" is much better IMHO.

Also, I'd make a big differentiation between antennas mounted to the building and antennas with their own free-standing support structure. I'd also make special provisions for wire antennas, exempting them from setbacks and such.

> Is there a way to make it apply only to amateur radio operators that
> doesn't draw too much attention to the policy?

You could include a clause that specifies antennas "used by FCC-
licensed radio operators" or some such. Also that all such antennas
"must be used in compliance with all applicable FCC regulations".

> I suspect that they might go for it if I can demonstrate that there
> won't be a bunch of towers going up and if most of the things they
> allow are nearly unseen. Currently there are only two licensed hams in
> the subdivision.

Get them on the team so you all agree.

One good tool is to collect photos of amateur antenna installations
that you consider acceptable, so they know what you mean. Of course you
only want installations that are well-engineered and installed in a
highly workmanlike manner. Another tool is to take a picture of your
house and photoshop in an antenna that you'd like to have.

All of the above is IMHO

73 es GL de Jim, N2EY

189. Re: How to write CC&R's

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-08 00:16:15 UTC
From: "D. Stussy" <spam@bde-arc.ampr.org>
Message-ID: <gtvfvt$e2j$1@aux.snarked.org>
Source record: 2099

"KC4UAI" <kc4uai@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:891949e0-6581-4f60-bcc5-1da5f78ff311@s31g2000vbp.googlegroups.com...
> All,
>
> I need some advice.
>
> I've been given the opportunity to draft a architectural guideline for
> my HOA and I was planning to "adjust" the antenna policy because it is
> unenforceable as written in the current guideline document because of
> the OTARD rules. ...

Why not delete the policy in its entirety? Your justification would be for non-compliance with the FCC's rules and decisions. Anything not forbidden is permitted! ;-)

190. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1656 - May 8 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-08 12:20:59 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090508025810.016cce18@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2100
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1656 - May 8 2009

ATTENTION: DUE TO BREAKING NEWS THIS IS AN EXTENDED LENGTH NEWSCAST RUNNING 34MINUTES AND 55 SECONDS AND CONTAINING 3 BREAKS

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Ladies and gentlemen, Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

OK, you all know why I am here. Its spring and all the bills from last winter have been mounting up. And, as usual, there is really not very much left in the treasury to pay them. Eventually they have got to get paid or these news reports will cease. That time is now.

So we ask that you take a few moments to send a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline support fund so that we can keep these newscasts coming your way. Making a contribution is only a mouse click away if you have Pay Pal. Just go to www.arnewsline.org and click on the button at the top of the page marked "Make Donation." Or you can send in a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Whichever way you choose, the all volunteer crew at the Amateur Radio Newsline will be eternally grateful and these newscasts will be here for you..

Once again that's the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066. Or by Pay Pal at www.arnewsline.org

For the Support Fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1656 with a release date of Friday, May 8th, 2009 to follow in 54321.

The following is a Q-S-T. Congress says its time for the FCC to change and two congressmen introduce legislation to begin the process. Also, another conspirator in the murder at sea of two hams is sentenced to death, the FCC sides with a deceased hams son in reassigning a call and a preview of Hamvention 2009's forums that tell us all to dream. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1656 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: CONGRESSIONAL BILL TO REFORM FCC INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

Congress is taking a hard look at the way in which the FCC operates with an eye at changing the way the regulatory agency does business. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the Newsroom with the rest of the story:

--

A bill to change the way that the FCC approaches all regulatory matters has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives. Sponsored by representatives Joe Barton of Texas and Cliff Stearns of Florida, H.R. 2183 seeks to reform some of the Federal Communications Commission's regulatory processes.

Among the matters that H.R. 2183 addresses is a requirement that would force the FCC to let the public see any and all proposed rules and rules changes before it adopts them. Also, that the agency would be forced to provide everyone with a realistic amount of time to comment. In this area, the measure would require the FCC to provide at least 30 days for comments and an additional 30 days for replies on the published language of proposed rules.

The measure would also give the FCC only 30 days from adoption of a policy to release the actual text of the decision.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, Wa6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles

--

According to the wording of the bill Representatives Barton and Stearns want to require the agency to publish weekly the items being circulated among the Commissioners for a vote,. They also want to name any commissioner who has not voted on a given item. For ham radio it would mean knowing more about what the FCC is thinking in regard to changes in our service instead of having to second guess what the future might bring. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: CONGRESS LOOKS AT HAM RADIO EMCOMM RESPONSE MEASURE

Congress is taking a look at the valuable role that ham radio plays in times of natural or man made disasters. This, after U.S Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee of Texas has introduces HR 2160 in the US House of Representatives.

Better known as the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, HR 2160 would promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees in the Amateur Radio Service. This, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications.

The study would also identify unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications. It would also make recommendations for relief of any such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

HR 2160 has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. If enacted into law, the measure would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake its own study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. That study would also spell out the capabilities and specific uses of amateur radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief situations. (ARRL)

**

RADIO JUSTICE: THIRD DEFENDANT IN HAM RADIO MURDER CASE SENTENCED TO DEATH

Another death sentence in the murder of two hams at sea. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

--

A Southern California man has become the second person sentenced to die for the murders of a retired ham radio couple who were tied to an anchor and thrown off their yacht. This as Orange County California Superior Court Judge Frank Fasel condemns 43-year-old John Fitzgerald Kennedy to die by lethal injection for his part in the murders at sea of Thomas and Jackie Hawks, KD7VWJ and KD7VWK.

The supreme penalty was handed down by Judge Fasel on Friday, May 1st. This, after the same jury that had convicted Kennedy in February of two counts of special-circumstances murder had recommended death.

As previously reported, Kennedy's co-defendant, Skylar Deleon, was sentenced to death in the same two murders. Automatic appeals will likely delay the sentences to be carried out for some time. In California its currently an average of 8 to 13 years or longer between a judge sentencing a convicted felon to death and carrying out of a death sentence no matter how heinous the crime.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Deleon's ex-wife Jennifer Henderson was convicted in the murders in 2006 and sentenced to life in prison. A fourth co-defendant still faces trial in this case. (Published news reports)

**

RADIO LAW: THAT CALL BELONGS TO THE SON

The FCC has denied a petition for reconsideration filed by Mr. Richard E. Essen, N6CX, of Silver Spring, Maryland, to be awarded the vanity

call sign W3ZD. This, after a relative of the calls original holder exercised his right of survivorship and the FCC agreed. Heres the back story.

On December 22, 2006, Winfield C. Brantley surrendered amateur call sign W3ZD upon the grant of his application for a different call. A surrendered call sign generally is not available to the vanity call sign system for two years, but the Commission's Rules provides an exception for certain relatives of a deceased former holder of the call sign.

On December 10, 2008, Allan B. Corderman filed an application for call sign W3ZD. In his application, he stated that he is the son of a deceased former holder of the call sign. Commission staff has verified that call sign W3ZD was previously held by Roy C. Corderman, now deceased. Because of this Allan B. Corderman's application was granted on December 30, 2008.

On January 8, 2009, Essen requested reconsideration of the grant. He argued that the application should not have been granted because the exception in the FCC rules applies only to close survivors of the most recent person to hold the call sign, and not to close relatives of any deceased prior holder.

But the FCC says that's not the case. It says that when the agency adopted its rules dealing with call sign survivorship it stated that it was granting priority to close relatives of any and all deceased holders. That it did not say that the priority applied only to close relatives of certain deceased holders.

The FCC says that its rule has always been interpreted to afford priority to close relatives of any deceased former holder. Consequently, it concludes that Allan B. Corderman's application was properly granted, and has now dismissed Essen's petition for reconsideration. (FCC)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the NS9RC repeater of the North Shore Radio Club serving Highland Park, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC RETURNS W8WX TO MICHIGAN SKYWARN GROUP

The FCC says that the callsign W8WX has been the property of a Michigan Skywarn group since 1999 and it has now returned to that group. This, after another ham tried to get it for a similar named group in Ohio. Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, is here with the rest of the story:

--

Way back on January 28, 1999, the Commission granted the W8WX call sign and club station license to the Lucas County Skywarn in Temperance, Michigan. Hermon R. Kibler, WD8ABZ, was identified as the club station trustee.

About 9 years later on March 19, 2008, Becky Eby, KC8ZNX, filed an application requesting that the license be amended to show her as the calls trustee and that the club's mailing address of the club be changed to one in Toledo, Ohio.

The FCC granted that application on March 19, 2008. After learning about the change on June 2nd 2008, WD8ABZ filed objections claiming that he was still the trustee for W8WX. He asked that the license be restored to him.

So, on June 30th, 2008, the FCC asked Eby to prove that she had been designated as the new trustee of W8WX. Eby replied on July 12th, 2008, that she was asked to be the trustee of the call by an officer of the club on January 29, 2008 at a meting of the Lucas County Skywarn. She also provided the meeting minutes and other documentation. Eby also told the FCC that she had been a member of Lucas County Ohio Skywarn since 2005, but the documents submitted show that the Lucas County Skywarn in Ohio was established on January 29, 2008.

On August 4, 2008, Kibler told the FCC that the Lucas County Ohio Skywarn did not and has not ever had anything to do with the Lucas County Michigan Skywarn. This past January Kibler filed an application to renew the license for W8WX and restore it to his name and address. On March 6, 2009, Eby amended that application to show her name and address. Kibler objected to the amendment on March 18th.

Now the FCC has found that Eby was not authorized to change the club trustee and address of W8WX. As a result, W8WX was restored to the Lucas County Michigan Skywarn radio club with Kibler as trustee. At airtime its unknown if Eby plans to file an sort of an appeal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV.

--

And there is a rather interesting sidebar to this story. It seems that there is no Lucas County in Michigan. Temperance Michigan, to where the W8WX call is assigned, is just across the state line from Lucas County Ohio. The town of Temperance in Monroe County, Michigan. Confusing, isn't it? (FCC Order on Petition for Reconsideration, adopted April 15, 2009.)

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: A PREWIEW OF FORUMS TO DREAM ABOUT

The Dayton Hamvention is less than a week away its time to take a peak at what attendees will be able to expect. Of coarse all of the big

names in ham radio manufacturing will be there to show the latest and greatest gear. And those in the massive Flea Market will have the oldest and boldest of ham radios historical equipment up for sale.

But a good number of attendees consider Hamvention a learning experience and for 2009 they will not be disappointed. Michael Kalter, W8CI, is a Hamvention spokesman who recently was interviewed by Hap Holly, KC9RP, of RAIN:

--

Kalter: (Audio report only. Please download the MP3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org to hear it.)

--

In all, Kalter says that there will be some 45 different forums for those who come to Hamvention to learn. All they have to do is get there and dream. More with Michael Kalter, W8CI is on line at www. Therainreport.com. (RAIN, ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAMVENTION NEWS: ARNEWSLINE AT HAMVENTION 2009

And less we forget to mention, we of Amateur Radio Newsline will also be at Hamvention 2009. In addition to gathering news for upcoming reports we will again be hosting the annual Ham Radio Town Meeting. This year's topic is titled "A Lifetime of Careers." It will show how becoming a ham as a teen or pre-teen affected the lives and adult careers of several well known radio amateurs. In reality, its really a story of how ham radio can open up doors to success that no other hobby can.

We will be holding this years Ham radio Town Meeting on Saturday, May 16th from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Hamvention Meeting Room 2 at the Hara Arena. Among this years speakers is the broadcast engineer who brought frequency coordination to major league sports. Also, with us will be the ham who helped the movie character "ET" to "phone home" and a career aviator who has operated around the globe.

There will also be a special appearance by ham radio's own Mr. Audio, Bob Heil, K9EID. Bob will explain why he is kind of the poster child for amateur radio and how the hobby made him the successful inventor and businessman he is today.

So come and enjoy a few hours with us learning how being a kid ham can lead to a life of success as an adult. Also, if you have children of your own, bring them along to hear some inspiring words on how their lives might benefit as well.

Again, that's on Saturday, May 16th from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Hamvention Meeting Room 2 at the Hara Arena for this years Ham Radio Town Meeting. We hope to see many of you there. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RESCUE RADIO: PACKETEERS TO HOLD GOLDEN PACKET EVENT

Packet operators and VHF rover stations will attempt the first ever Appalachian Trail Golden Packet event on Sunday, July 26th. The goal is to relay packet text messages the full 2000 mile length of the Appalachian Trail using 14 packet relay stations carried to the tops of some of the highest peaks in the Eastern United States.

This long linear demonstration will hopefully show the power of packet radio to re-constitute emergency communications into an area where normal communications capabilities can easily be lost. It will also demonstrate how easily a ham radio data network can be established using nothing more than a typical APRS mobile radio installation that's driven to the highest available spot in any given area.

More information about the Appalachian Trail Golden Packet event is on line at www.aprs.org. (WB4APR)

**

RADIO POLITICS: MIGNON CLYBURN TO BE NOMINATED AS FCC COMISSIONER

President Barack Obama has announced he intends to nominate Mignon Clyburn to the commission. The daughter of one of the most powerful members of Congress, House Majority Whip James Clyburn, Mignon Clyburn is in her 11th year serving as a South Carolina public service commissioner..

According to the commissions Web site, it has regulatory jurisdiction over investor-owned electric and gas utility companies; water and wastewater companies, telecommunications companies, motor carriers of household goods, hazardous waste disposal, and taxicabs. She is a 1984 graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Banking, Finance and Economics.

Prior to coming to the South Carolina Public Service Commission she was publisher and general manager of the now-defunct "The Coastal Times," This was an African-American weekly newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina.

If confirmed by the Senate, she would fill the Democratic seat being vacated by Jonathan Adelstein, who's headed to the Rural Utilities Service in the Agriculture Department to help roll out broadband in areas away from major metropolitan areas. (Published reports, FCC web)

**

RADIO LICENSING: HAM TRAINING AT RIVERSIDE COUNTY CA HOMELESS SHELTER

Ham radio will be taught in a California homeless shelter beginning on June 4th. This according to Chris Kahn, KG6KZP, who will be the instructor for the course with assistance from Radio School's Gordon West, WB6NOA.

Chris tells Newsline that it all began when some of the shelter staff members approached him about getting their Amateur service tickets. The shelter, which is in Riverside County, California, also serves as an Emergency Operations Center serving several communities including the region surrounding Palm Springs.

Chris says that while the class is primarily for those volunteering and working at the shelter, he is opening it up to anyone who wants to get their entry level license. This includes those living at the shelter.

If you live in or near the area and want to take part in this training or know someone who wants to get a ham license, feel free to call Chris Kahn at (760) 327-8577. Or you can contact him by e-mail to chriskahnkg6kzp (at) yahoo (dot) com. (KG6KZP)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: SANDY DONAHUE, W4RU - S.K.

A longtime friend of the Amateur Radio Newsline and an ex-officio member of our Young Ham of the Year Award team has become a silent key. This with word that Nelson Sandy Donahue, W4RU, passed away in his sleep early on May 4th.

We first met Sandy in the mid 1980's. He was still WA4ABY back then and called asking if someone from Newsline could come and speak at a ham radio convention in Atlanta. One that he was spearheading for the Georgia Tech Radio Club.

Our Producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, flew in and the two quickly became close friends. And so it was that when the Young Ham of the Year Award presentation ceremony moved to its permanent home at the Huntsville Hamfest, Sandy offered to get there early to make sure all was ready for the arrival of each years young ham award winner. As such he became the unofficial greater for the award program and more than once footed the entire cost for all attending the dinner for the years young honoree.

But Sandy's service to ham radio was not limited to assisting us. First licensed at age 15, Sandy Donahue served as ARRL Georgia Section Manager from 1997 to 2001. He became the League's Southeastern Division Vice Director in 2002 and has held that position ever since. In fact, Sandy spent the last weekend of his life manning the ARRL booth and representing the ARRL at the Birmingham, Alabama hamfest. It

was a labor of love that W4RU was devoted to.

A few years ago after retiring form his job at an Atlanta TV station and suffering some health issues, Sandy relocated to the town of Dothan, Alabama. It was a place that he once described to WA6ITF as being the exact opposite of what Atlanta was. He said that Dolthan was a nice, quiet, peaceful and a good place to live. And it was in his adopted hometown of Dolthan that Sandy became a Silent Key at age 63.

Sandy Donahue, W4RU, was a very special friend to many of us here at the Amateur Radio Newsline. Because of this, his memory will live on with us, and with all of those whose lives he touched with his positive outlook on life.

Graveside services for Sandy Donahue, W4RU, were to be held at 4 PM at Sunset Memorial Park, 1700 Barrington Road, Midland City, Alabama. An special memorial service will be held in conjunction with the Atlanta Hamfest on June 6, 2009 at 1 PM. (ARNewsline with information also provided by the ARRL and WA4AW)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISS AT 25 CERTIFICATE

Turning to ham radio space related news, if you heard or contacted the ham radio station on board the I-S-S using any of its modes, between November 30, 2008 to January 15, 2009 you qualify to receive an ARISS 25th Year Commemorative Certificate. To get one, please send a QSL with all of the normal information and note the ARISS mode of operation. Also, whether the contact with you was receive only or two-way. On the outside of the QSL envelope, please include the words "25th Anniversary Certificate" and include a self addressed stamped envelope large enough to accept an 8.5 by 11 inch certificate and includes the proper postage. Please refer to www.ariss.org for addresses where to send your QSL and for additional details. (ARISS)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: MARYLAND FM ASSN MEMORIAL DAY HAMFEST

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that the Maryland F.M. Association will be holding its annual Memorial Day Hamfest on Sunday, May 24th. The venue is the Howard County Fairgrounds, in West Friendship, Maryland from 8 am to 1 p.m. with setup beginning at 6 am. All times are local Eastern U-S. More is on-line at www.marylandfm.org (WA3MNN)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEILSEN SAYS TWITTER HAS MORE QUITTERS THAN JOINERS

Ham radio has nothing to fear from the Twitter instant messaging social network. The Chicago Tribune reported on May 1st reported on a recent

Neilsen Online survey that found the number of people leaving Twitter after just one month outnumber the new arrivals by a margin of 3 to 2.

David Martin is Nielsen's vice president of primary research. He says that if Twitter's user retention rates don't do better than the current 40 percent, the service simply won't be able to grow into the Internet social networking giants such as MySpace and Facebook.

According to Neilsen, in March, Facebook saw 69.2 million unique users, representing 41 percent of the U.S. Web audience. MySpace had 55.9 million, or 33 percent. But despite its initial rapid growth Twitter, lagged far behind, at 13.9 million users and 8.2 percent.

No reason was given to explain the massive defection from Twitter but Neilsen's Martin says that if 60 percent continue to quit from one month to the next, the inability to replace defectors suggests a natural limit to growth with Twitter. He expects for it to max out at about 10 percent of the U.S. Internet audience.

As to ham radio, while nobody does regular research on the retention rate in the hobby, it appears to be well above 85 to 90 percent, month to month. (RW, Chicago Tribune, others)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W0CP INDUCTED INTO CE HALL OF FAME

Some names in the news. First up is former ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Walt Stinson, W0CPP. He is among industry leaders receiving honors this year from the consumer electronics industry. This as he is named as an inductee into the 2009 Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame.

In addition to his years of service to ham radio, W0CP is president and co-founder of the Denver Colorado based Listen Up audio/video specialty chain and also co-founded the Professional Audio Video Retailer's Association in 1979. ListenUp Corporation employs over 100 people and operates three consumer electronics stores in Colorado, an e-commerce website, a design center, a professional showroom, and a repair center. In addition the company designs, installs, and services everything from simple stereo systems to home theaters, large scale public address systems, board room multi-media systems, networks, automation, lighting control, telephones, and security.

Also being inducted this year is Dr. Irwin M. Jacobs. He was the co-founder of Qualcomm Corporation and the man who led the commercialization of CDMA technology. Also recognized for their contributions to communications and consumer electronics are the team of Karl Hassel and Ralph Mathews. They were the founders of the Chicago Radio Laboratory, which later became Zenith Radio.

They and the other inductees will be honored at a ceremony during CEA's Industry Forum in Phoenix, Arizona, this fall. (EIA)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VK5ZAI RECEIVES CHRIS JONES AWARD FOR DEDICATION TO ARISS

And congratulations to Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI on his selection as this years recipient of the Chris Jones Award. This Australia based prize honors the memory of the late Chris Jones VK2ZDD whom the Wireless Institute of Australia describes as a radio amateur who was dedicated to the advancement of the service and whose unfailing courtesy and genuine friendliness is fondly remembered by all who knew him.

Tony Hutchinson was chosen based on his eight years of dedication to providing ground to space communications to the International Space Station for contacts with children in classrooms around the world. VK5ZAI serves as both the ARISS Coordinator for the Asia Pacific Region and Wireless Institute of Australia's ARISS Coordinator as well. (WIA)

**

WORLDBEAT: FOUR YOUNG HAMS NAMED WINNERS OF RADIO ARCALA ESSAY CONTEST

Last February that the team at Radio Arcala, OH8X, launched an essay contest. One aimed at getting some fresh ideas from today's youth, and their elders o boost recruitment into to the ranks of amateur radio.

There were numerous entries and now the multinational jury has picked the winners with first place going to a 19-year-old from the U-K named Mark Dumpleton, 2-E-Zero-N-C-G.

Two US hams, John Scott Anderson, KC9OQO, and Brian Wood, W0DZ, finished in second and third place respectively. Argentinean Diego Salom, LU8DX was recognized for his submission of the best Spanish language piece.

You can read Dumpleton's article and his interview at www.radioarcala.com. It can be found at the screen button marked "Young People Terms." (GB2RS, Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: MALAYSIA KEEN ON HAM RADIO AS TEACHING TOOL

Malaysia's Star On Line newspaper has just published a story on how students are improving their English skills using Amateur radio. According to the news article, students were introduced to the world of ham radio when they were given the opportunity to listen to a live conversation between astronauts from the International Space Satellite. One 15 year old student commented that she was amazed to hear the astronauts talking to each other through such a small radio. (Malaysia Star)

**

BREAK 3

We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 Second pause here)

**

RADIO EXPERIMENTS: UK TO VE MARCONI DAY SUCCESS

A big success for Marconi Day 2009. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, reports from Nottingham in the U-K:

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This year, on Marconi Day, a Marconi official station using Marconi equipment completed a radio contact that was similar to those Marconi himself achieved many years ago.

During the late hours of Friday 24th and the early hours of Saturday 25th April, GB4FPR was operated from the Fort Perch Rock Marine Radio Museum in the Wirral. Using a newly obtained 501kHz to 504kHz Notice of Variation license, they managed a transatlantic QSO on 502kHz with a station in St. John's, Newfoundland. The operators used Marconi marine equipment and Morse and received a 539 report from V01MRC.

It was a crossband QSO with GB4FPR transmitting 1 watt ERP on 502kHz and receiving the Canadian station on 3566kHz.

--

And this historic note: Fort Perch Rock from there the U-K Marconi station operated for this event was first built as a coastal defense battery during the Napoleonic era. This, to protect the Port of Liverpool. G-4-N-J-H says that it is open all year round and features museums, exhibitions and of coarse a tea-room. Definitely a nice place from where to call a CQ. (GB2RS)

**

DX

In DX word that JA1NLX, will be active as 3D2YA from Mana Island in Mamanuca Group between June 29th and July 3rd. Listen out for him on 80 through 10 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign, by the Bureau or direct with an SASE.

AH2Y and WX8C will be active from Guam as AH2Y during the CQWW WPX CW Contest that takes place May 30th to the 31st. QSL via Logbook to the World or direct to HL1IWD.

K8AQM, reports that the QSL route for the V63TR 2008 operation is no longer K5ZM. From this point on, QSL V63TR only to K8AQM.

LA9QNA will be active as JW9QNAfrom the JW5E club station in Svalbard between July 17th to the 22nd. Activity will include entries in the

North American RTTY QSO Party and the CQ World Wide VHF Contest. QSL via LA9QNA.

Members of the Scandinavian YL Radio Amateurs report that they are planning an expedition to a part of remote but still accessible part of Norway. The operation will take place after the groups meeting near Oslo slated September 3d to the 6th. More information is on-line at www dot slyra dot is.

Herbert Aeby, HB9BOU, is now the single, official, coordinated source for 4U1UN QSL cards. He has all available log books, both the old paper and more recent computer logs. He and his team are reported to provide a very conscientious QSL service. His address is good in the Callbook and on most on-line call directories.

Their plans are to get a group of YL operators (and possibly their OM) to activate the Longyearbyen radio station from Svalbard between September 6-13th. They have already received the callsign JW1SYL for the operation.

Lastly IW0HEX has told the Ohio Penn DX newsletter that his callsign appears to have been pirated. He says that that he has been receiving QSL cards via the bureau for portable 5Z4 operation from August 2008 on 30 meter CW. He tells the O-P-D-X that he has never been in Kenya and this is someone abusing his callsign. He wont be returning QSL cards to anyone who sends them to him for that non-existent operation.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE OLD VS NEW IRC

And finally this week, for those who like to stockpile International Reply Coupons or IRC's for QSL'ing purposes, listen up. This information is for you. Graham Kemp, VK4BB, of the WIA News, has the details:

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The current IRC will expire at the end of year. Unlike the old style coupons, the current types all have an expiration date giving them a maximum life of 3 years. Even if you purchased a current IRC today, they will still expire on December 31, 2009.

Ken, ZL2HU, advises us on the following information from the International Postal Union in Geneva:

"The current issue (Beijing 2) IRC may be exchanged up to 31 December 2009 (date printed on coupon). In principle, Beijing 2 coupons will no longer be sold from 31 August 2009.

"The new international reply coupon (Nairobi model) is due to go on sale from 1 July 2009, and will be valid for exchange until 31 December

2013."

Ken states, "So make sure you aren't holding any of the Beijing 2 coupons at the end of this year."

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm GFraham Kemp, VK4BB, in Australia.

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To see what the new International Reply Coupon looks like, go to the U-R-L found at http://www.upu.int/news_centre/2008/en/2008-08-08_irc.shtml (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

Also, due to travel by Newsline's volunteers to Dayton, next weeks newscast will be released one day early on Thursday, May 14th. Look for it on line and on the phone then.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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191. Annual Museum Ships on the Air

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-08 13:39:40 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090508130402.8146B306C5@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2001
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx,rec.radio.info

I am very happy to forward this email for your information. Thanks to
the Ak-Sar-Ben Amateur Radio Club for doing this!

73,
Art
****

The Ak-Sar-Ben ARC will participate in the Annual Museum Ships on the
Air event from Freedom Park and will activate not one, but two ships
for the event. On June 6th, the USS Hazard will be activated as K&#65533;USA
and the USS Marlin will be heard as K&#65533;M. Operations on the Hazard
will take place from the deck. The ship will not be open to the
public, only amateurs participating in the event will be allowed on
board. All amateur radio operators are invited to attend and
participate. Make sure you bring your amateur radio license with you.

The station for the Marlin will operate from the ground next to the
submarine. Setup will start on Saturday morning at 8:00 with
operations starting at 9:00. We will operate until 7:00 p.m. with tear
down at the time.

Operations for both ships will take place in the General portion of the
amateur radio bands. Actually operating bands and frequencies are
not known at this time as it depends on band conditions and the final
antenna configuration and will probably change throughout the day.
Part of the fun of this event is that you don't know where the various
ships will be operating. At this point 44 ships have signed up, and it
looks like we are the most inland of any of them (at least in the US)
and we will be giving them two options!

Watch the club's web site for details http://www.aksarbenarc.org/main

Mary Joseph
Aksarban Amateur Radio Club

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
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192. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 18 (Friday, May 8, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-08 23:05:17 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090508212700.6FC4931E31@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2002
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 18
May 8, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + ARRL Grassroots Legislative Action Committee Solicits Member
Support
for HR 2160
* + FCC Releases Redacted BPL Case Studies after ARRL FOIA Request
* + ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU (SK)
* + DX Activities Abound at ARRL EXPO and National Convention
* + Oregon Hams Participate in Statewide Disaster Drill
* + Noted QST Author, DXpeditioner Lee Bergren, W0AR (SK)
* + FCC Affirms Vanity Call Sign Rules
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ No ARRL Audio News on May 15

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL GRASSROOTS LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE SOLICITS MEMBER SUPPORT
FOR HR 2160

One of the biggest challenges that amateurs face is antenna
restrictions
-- those implemented by local governments and those originating from
deed restrictions and building development covenants. As many hams
know,
the FCC's PRB-1 limited preemption order
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf>
offers amateurs some relief when facing zoning and building
restrictions; however, PRB-1 does not extend to include covenants,
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conditions and restrictions (known as CC&Rs). These deed and property use restrictions strongly and negatively affect the ability of Amateur Radio Service licensees to perform valuable emergency and disaster communications. Finding a method to extend the PRB-1 protections is a key component of the ARRL Legislative Action Program <http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/laprog-faq.html>.

On April 29, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced House Bill HR 2160 -- the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>. If enacted into law, HR 2160 would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within
180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:
* Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
* Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
* Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
* Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
* Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable
heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The bill does not automatically extend PRB-1 to include CC&Rs, but it takes a first big step in that direction by determining the extent that things such as CC&Rs impede the Amateur Service in performing public and
emergency service communications.

HR 2160 has been assigned to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.
Getting the bill out of committee is the first major hurdle to overcome -- and that is where ARRL members play an essential role. As part of a phased campaign, members of the ARRL's Legislative Action Committee and Division Directors sent letters to some ARRL members earlier this week; these members reside in a congressional district whose Member of Congress serves on that committee. The next phase will include all ARRL members.

This first set of members was encouraged to send letters expressing their support of HR 2160 to their congressional representative via Chwat
& Company, the League's Washington legislative consultant. Due to security measures imposed on mail sent to congressional personnel, representatives from Chwat will hand deliver the letters to the respective Member of Congress.

"Getting HR 2160 passed is going to be a challenging process -- and every ARRL member needs to be involved," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The actions this week by the Grassroots Legislative Action volunteers are just the first step in our journey into getting the bill signed into law."

Amateur Radio operators across the US repeatedly demonstrate their commitment to public service and emergency communications. Through their
work with Homeland Security activities, state and local Emergency Management offices, as well as with numerous private agencies, Amateur Radio operators make a difference. HR 2160 can go a long way toward assisting thousands of amateurs who are restrained unreasonably by CC&Rs, but it will take a concerted effort by all amateurs for this effort to be successful.

For more information on HR 2160 or the Legislation Action Program, please contact Henderson via e-mail <reginfo@arrl.org>.

==> FCC RELEASES REDACTED BPL CASE STUDIES AFTER ARRL FOIA REQUEST

Earlier this month, the FCC released the redacted portions of the studies on which they relied with regard to its Broadband over Powerline
(BPL) rulemaking in 2004 after ARRL filed an Freedom of Information Act request <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/BPL_FOIA_Request033109.pdf> on March 31 for the studies. In October 2007, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard ARRL's case against the Commission <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/10/25/102/>, stating, among other things, that the FCC not only withheld the internal studies until it was too late to comment, but had yet to release portions of studies that may not support its own conclusions regarding BPL. The FCC claimed that the studies were "internal communications" that it did not rely upon in reaching its decision to adopt the BPL rules. In its April 2008 ruling, the Court ordered the FCC to release the studies <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>.

In its decision, the Court agreed with the ARRL that the FCC had failed to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) <http://biotech.law.lsu.edu/Courses/study_aids/adlaw/> by not fully disclosing for public comment the staff studies on which it relied and that "there is no APA precedent allowing an agency to cherry-pick a study on which it has chosen to rely in part." Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized in the Court's decision that "The Commission failed

to
satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act ('APA') by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions." The Court concluded that "no precedent sanctions such a 'hide and seek' application of the APA's notice and comment requirements."

Judge Tatel agreed with Judge Rogers, saying, "[I]n this very case the Commission redacted individual lines from certain pages on which it otherwise relied...there is little doubt that the Commission deliberately attempted to 'exclude [ ] from the record evidence adverse to its position'"

After almost a year after the Court's decision, the FCC had done "literally nothing" about releasing the complete studies <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/04/10685/>. When President Obama came into office in January 2009, new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) guidelines <http://www.state.gov/m/a/ips/> were put in place. Using these new guidelines, the ARRL filed an FOIA request on March 31 for the studies. The FCC responded to the FOIA request and released the unredacted studies the last week of April.

A look at the unredacted studies show that the FCC knew BPL was not a point source, but these same studies in redacted form show just the opposite -- information proving BPL was not a point source was deleted. In one study concerning Main.net's BPL system, the FCC clearly disregarded information provided by a BPL provider's Chief Technical Officer, considering the point -- "[i]f distance scaling were based on distance to the pole ground wire rather than the nearest part of the BPL
system, measurements would have passed with 1 dB margin at the selected quasi-peak measurement location" -- as "invalid" <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Redacted1.pdf>.

Another unredacted study from 2003 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, plainly showed that BPL was not a point source, noting: "NOT A POINT SOURCE. Emissions exhibit no noticeable decay 230 m down from the coupler." In the redacted version, this information was deleted, but all other information, including a graph, was left intact <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Redacted2.pdf>.

A study regarding Access BPL showed the same thing, but all information had been redacted from the file, leaving just a blank page. The unredacted study concluded that "The tested overhead PLC devices do not act as point sources. Emission from line shows virtually no decay 230 m from coupler. Differential two-wire signal injection affects the polarization of radiated emissions from overhead devices" <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Redacted3.pdf>.

"Comparing the redacted and unredacted documents will take some time," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "but these three sets of pages...show exactly what prompted Judge Tatel to say what he did. We are continuing to analyze all the documents and we'll see just what has been going on."

==> ARRL SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR SANDY DONAHUE, W4RU (SK)

The ARRL is sad to report that Southeastern Division Vice Director Sandy
Donahue, W4RU, of Dothan, Alabama, passed away on May 4. He was 63. Donahue, an ARRL Life Member, served as Vice Director since January 2002
and as Georgia Section Manager from 1997-2001. In his professional life,
Donahue worked at a television station in Atlanta for almost 25 years before retiring.

Licensed for almost 50 years, Donahue received his first call sign -- WA4ABY -- at age 15. Exhibiting a lifelong commitment to public service throughout his amateur career, he always supported the ARRL and the Amateur Radio Service. Donahue was a fixture at every major hamfest in Southeastern Division -- and many across the country -- as well as many of the smaller ones in his area, promoting the ARRL. He spent the weekend of May 2-3 at the BirmingHamfest 2009
<http://www.w4cue.com/fest.html>.
Former Southeastern Division Director and current ARRL Honorary Vice President Frank Butler, W4RH, appointed Donahue as an Assistant Director
in 1982. "We spent hours and hours together at the ARRL table at so many
hamfests and conventions," Butler recalled. "Sandy became my Vice Director in 2002, and in the next six years, I got to really know him. Over the past 26 years, we must have sold more a ton of ARRL books, study guides, operating aids, pins, patches and stickers. Sandy was always promoting the League to hams, encouraging them to become active members of the ARRL. He took great pride in the number of people who joined the ARRL through him."

Butler said that after a hard day's work at the ARRL booth, "all Sandy ever wanted was a good dinner! He loved to eat, and he showed me many fine places to do that, from Atlanta to Birmingham, to Orlando to Miami!I'm glad we got to do that again the last weekend of his life -- at the
BirmingHamfest 2009."

Current Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, fondly remembered Donahue: "I was happy to say that I spent this past weekend with Sandy where he spent the last day of his life doing what he loved -- in the ARRL booth, representing the ARRL at the Birmingham, Alabama hamfest, catching up with old friends. Sandy was, as usual, in rare form
all weekend, joking and having a good time."

Sarratt said that on Sunday, May 3, "Breakfast began with Sandy surrounded by a group of friends, where he, as usual, did his dead level
best to get the best of me with a joke. On this occasion, he managed to succeed, and, in fact, he continued to enjoy this until we parted ways at the conclusion of the hamfest. Sandy could relate to all hams, both old and young. He -- and his sense of humor -- will be sorely missed."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that even before Donahue sought elective office in the ARRL, "Sandy was a fixture at conventions and hamfests, promoting the League and supporting the association in any way he could. Sandy thought of the ARRL as his family, and he was an important part of it."

Jeff Beals, WA4AW, was a long-time friend of Donahue's. "I've known Sandy for more than 25 years," he told the ARRL. "He was very, very devoted to Amateur Radio, especially the public service side: Emergency Communications, traffic handling and helping out wherever and whenever he could. We had a lot in common." Beals currently serves as an Assistant Section Manager and Affiliated Club Coordinator in the ARRL's Southern Florida Section.

"Sandy had developed an interest in community theatre these past couple of years," Beals said. "He had been involved in a few productions with The Featured Players group <http://www.freewebs.com/featuredplayers/> in
Dothan."

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, said that Donahue was one of the three ARRL Volunteer Examiners who administered his first
license exam back in 1997: "He was helpful after the exam as well, always eager to share his experience with a variety of Amateur Radio activities with me and other impressionable young hams at the Georgia Tech Amateur Radio Club. While I suspect that his stories were sometimes
accompanied by a degree of exaggeration for dramatic effect, I enjoyed them and will miss them."

According to Beals, a graveside service will be held at 4 PM on Saturday, May 9 at Sunset Memorial Park, 1700 Barrington Rd, Midland City, Alabama. An additional service will be held on June 6 at 1 PM in conjunction with the Atlanta Hamfest at Jim Miller Park in Marietta, Georgia. For more information, please contact Beals via e-mail <wa4aw@arrl.net>.

==> DX ACTIVITIES ABOUND AT ARRL EXPO AND NATIONAL CONVENTION

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, reports that plans for a plethora of DX activities at the ARRL EXPO -- part of the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention -- are wrapping up <http://www.arrl.org/expo>. "We are excited about the activities that will be taking place," he said. "Visitors to the EXPO

will see a lot of activities relating to DX, including an expanded International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) <http://www.iaru.org/> area." The National Convention will take place May 15-17 at Hara Arena, located
near Dayton, Ohio.

The IARU area, led by incoming IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, will feature each of the three IARU Regions. The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club
(DARC) <http://www.darc.de/>, representing Region 1, will be running a world flag identification contest throughout the show. ARRL, representing Region 2, will sponsor a RUFZ <http://www.rufzxp.net/> CW copying competition throughout the event. The Japan Amateur Radio League
(JARL) <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm>, representing Region 3, will be on hand to check applications for the IARU's Worked All Continent (WAC) and 5-Band WAC awards <http://www.iaru.org/wac/>. According to Patton, they will check QSL cards and issue the award certificates on the spot.

"The 2009 ARRL National Convention marks the first time we have offered the WAC and 5-Band WAC awards on the spot," Ellam said. "It is definitely exciting to be able to walk away with your award certificate in hand." To be eligible for WAC, applicants must submit QSL cards (no photocopies, please) confirming contacts with at least one other amateur
in each of six continents: North America, South America, Asia, Europe, Oceania and Africa. The 5-Band WAC award recognizes amateurs who have made confirmed contacts with these continents on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters.

JARL representatives will also check applications for certain JARL awards (AJD, WAJA, JCC, JCG, ADXA and ADXA-Half) and issue them at the convention. JARL staff members Masa Ebisawa, JA1DM, and Hiro Tamama, JA1SLS, will check applications for other JARL awards at the JARL corner; certificates for these awards will be mailed from JARL headquarters. Ebisawa and Tamama will be glad to answer questions about JARL activities, as well as the reciprocal licensing procedures.

Applicants for JARL awards do not need to have the QSL cards present; a list showing the call signs of stations worked, date, band and mode (or other data required by each award) of the contacts is sufficient. A statement making an oath that the QSL cards of the contacts listed are in the possession and that the items are correctly listed should be attached to the application. Applicants may use a DXCC Record Sheet for their QSL card list. The JARL award fee is $16. Check out the JARL Web site for more information about JARL awards
<http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-2_Awards/Award_Main.htm>.

ARRL staff and DXCC Card Checkers will offer full DXCC card checking and
award applications as always, and will also be able to check

applications and QSLs for the Worked All States (WAS)
<http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/> and the VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC)
<http://www.arrl.org/awards/vucc/> awards.

Visitors to the ARRL EXPO will be able to check out the Logbook of the
World (LoTW) "Call Sign Lookup." This nifty program will allow anyone
to
see how many times LoTW users have submitted their call sign to the 222
million QSO log database! ARRL staff will also be able to assist with
LoTW signup and problems throughout the weekend. For those who have not
yet signed up to use LoTW, bring a copy of your license to show to
staff
and they will be able to help expedite the sign-up process
<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>.

For the first time ever, ARRL members will be able to drop off their
QSL
cards to be sent through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau
<http://www.arrl.org/qsl/qslout.html>. If you have QSLs that you would
like to send through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau (your QSLs going to
foreign stations --no US-US QSLs please), you can save the shipping
cost
to ARRL by bringing them to Dayton and the League will transport your
cards to the Bureau in Newington.

In order to take advantage of this exciting benefit, all of the
standard
QSL Bureau rules must be followed: Cards must be sorted by DXCC
country;
they must go to countries where a bureau exists, and you must be an
ARRL
member to use the Outgoing QSL Bureau. Patton said that hams utilizing
this service do not need to box the cards, but they should be wrapped
with rubber bands; ARRL will weigh the cards on-site in the ARRL EXPO
area.

The rates are $5 for the first .5 pounds of cards or portion thereof.
Keep in mind that approximately 75 cards weigh .5 pounds. The rates
increase to $10 for one pound, and then $5 for each additional
half-pound. For example, a package containing 1.5 pounds of cards
should
include the fee of $15. A package of only 10 cards or fewer costs only
$1.50, 11-20 cards are $2.50 and 21-30 cards are $3.75. Members can pay
for this service via check, cash or credit card.

Why not make 2009 your year to go to Dayton? Where else can you
experience all the fun and excitement of the ARRL EXPO, the 2009 ARRL
National Convention and the Dayton Hamvention under one roof? It's not
too late to make plans to join us in Dayton May 15-17.

==> OREGON HAMS PARTICIPATE IN STATEWIDE DISASTER DRILL

The State of Oregon conducted a full-scale week long exercise April 24-30, simulating a 9.2 magnitude earthquake on the Cascadia Subduction Zone <http://www.pnsn.org/HAZARDS/CASCADIA/cascadia_zone.html>. According to Tillamook County Emergency Management Director Gordon McCraw, WX7EM, if an earthquake struck the zone, it would cause "major destruction" from the Cascade Mountains all the way to the West Coast. Instead of focusing on the actual disaster, the exercise instead concentrated on the 72 hours after the event. This, officials said, would put the primary focus on life-saving response and debris removal, as well as mass-casualty and short-term recovery.

The Cascadia Subduction Zone -- a very long sloping fault that stretches
from mid-Vancouver Island to Northern California -- separates and connects the Juan de Fuca Plate and North American Plate. The Zone is creating new ocean floor off the Washington and Oregon coasts; as more material wells up along the ocean ridge, the ocean floor is pushed toward and beneath the continent.

"The simulation -- codenamed Cascade Peril -- included a major tsunami striking the coastline," McCraw said. "Such an event would result in a severe disruption to local utilities, including electricity and phone services, so local Amateur Radio operators were called upon to relay message traffic from the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office Command Center to the Incident Command Team. From there, officials evaluated the
needs request and forwarded the traffic on to the Regional Facility that
had been set up at a National Guard Base near Cannon Beach, Oregon. Emergency Management officials then consolidated these requests and sent
them to the State Emergency Management Office in Salem."

McCraw said that officials participating in Cascade Peril expected that if this were an actual event, roads would be affected, so as part of the
simulation, the US Coast Guard dispatched a helicopter to the Tillamook Airport. There it picked up three Tillamook area Amateur Radio operators
and flew them to Camp Rilea National Guard Base in Warrenton, about 65 miles north of Tillamook.

At Camp Rilea, the hams established communications on 2 meters and Winlink between all facilities. "Amateurs relayed message traffic on voice, and many new hams used Winlink for the first time, having received their license only a couple months prior to the exercise," McCraw said. "In Tillamook County, we used 11 hams at two locations. Four Tillamook hams at Camp Rilea participated with hams from neighboring Clatsop County. These hams sent and received a total of 37 messages on Friday and 32 messages on Saturday before the exercise was terminated around noon."

In the months leading up to the exercise, McCraw said Tillamook County installed amateur stations at the Tillamook County Sheriff's Office -- home of the Emergency Operations Center and the back-up 911 center -- and at the primary regional 911 center in downtown Tillamook, where the Incident Command Team operates during disasters. "Because of the excellent service the Amateur Radio community provided during the December 2007 storm events that saw a severe disruption of landline and cell phone service in many coastal communities, including Tillamook County, Emergency Management officials installed the Amateur Radio stations at these facilities," McCraw said. "Both the county and the state recognized the capabilities Amateur Radio offered and they provided some of the equipment needed to install these stations."

McCraw said that Tillamook County has been called the most "disaster rich" county in Oregon: "This past November, December and January, Tillamook County experienced three floods and a severe snow event that resulted in Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski declaring these areas disaster zones. As has now become standard practice during activation of
the Incident Command Team, Amateur Radio operators were on the scene, attending all briefings and manning the stations until the event was terminated."

ARRL District Emergency Coordinator for Oregon's District One David Kidd, KZ7OZO, told the ARRL that Tillamook County is "very lucky" to have Gordon McCraw, WX7EM: "Not only is Gordon the Emergency Coordinator
(EC) for the County ARES unit, but he is now the County Emergency Management Director after serving as a Senior Deputy since his arrival in Oregon. Gordon brings his vast experience in law enforcement and emergency management to the county from his time spent working in both fields during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. This is important since Tillamook County has been the focal point for several severe weather events in the recent past. Gordon takes is job very seriously and has his people train hard so they are ready for the real thing."

Kidd said that McCraw -- appointed as EC in April 2007 -- has helped to build a very effective unit "from scratch" -- the county had not had an ARES unit for more than 10 years before McCraw's appointment.

"Tillamook County is a rural county and volunteers are an absolute necessity to get the mission accomplished here," McCraw concluded, "and Amateur Radio operators are at the top of that list. I consider them amateurs in name alone."

==> NOTED QST AUTHOR, DXPEDITIONER LEE BERGREN, W0AR (SK)

Albert "Lee" Bergren, W0AR (ex-W9AIW, W0AIW), of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away May 1 after a brief illness. He was 93. An electronics engineer, author, designer and advisor with special accomplishments in the field of antenna and radio amplifier design, Bergren led or participated in many of the first Amateur Radio DXpeditions.

In 1956, Bergren and a team of five amateurs activated Socorro Island, XE4A, in 1956 <http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=38695&pub=qst>. Prior to this activation, the island had only seen Amateur Radio activity when a Spanish-speaking radio operator with a temporary Mexican
weather station had a limited number of contacts on 40 meters phone. In 1959, Bergren also activated the Seychelles Islands as VQ9AIW in 1959. In 2002, he was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame as Member #41 <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/dxhof.html>. Other than keeping up with
his friends on the air, DX was always Bergren's focus in Amateur Radio. After the bands opened up after World War II, he received DXCC #191 for Mixed Mode and DXCC #124 for voice in 1948. According to the June 1965 issue of QST, Bergren earned DXCC Honor Roll with 313 countries.

In 1963, Bergren developed the multi-element cubical quad antenna, and later that year, QST published his article "The Multielement Quad" <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/6305011.pdf>. The antenna
had a driven element, reflector and two directors. Horizontal crossarms were broken by insulators to minimize coupling to the antenna. Continuous wire loops with no stubs were used for each element. In a June 2002 QST article, Bergren recalled "The First Field Day" in 1933 <http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=102850&pub=qst>, remembering that back then, only portable stations were allowed to participate.

Together with Bill Bishop, W0UF (SK), Bergren owned and served as President of Radio Industries, a company that manufactured the Loudenboomer linear amplifier and antenna rotator in the early 1960s <http://www.qsl.net/la5ki/louden.htm>. The company was also known for two-way 30 mc radios used for village communication during the Vietnam War and two-way 160 mc communication radios for railroads and pipeline controls that they designed and manufactured. Bergren and Bishop sold the company to Hallicrafters in the mid-1960s.

ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, knew Bergren well. "Lee was an amazing man with an amazing story," MacLachlan said. "He taught me much in the two years I knew him, and even at 93 he left too soon. Lee spent 78 years in ham radio, dedicating his time, talent and treasure to
the hobby. He will be sincerely missed in the Kansas City amateur community, especially among QCWA Chapter 35 and Kansas City DX Club. Lee
was the greatest man one could be, and he now belongs to the ether."

Bergren was a Life Member of the ARRL and the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). He co-founded the Kansas City DX Club in 1952 and the Mid-Continent Chapter 35 of QCWA in 1967. Bergren is survived by his
wife Betty. A memorial service is planned for 10:30 AM Tuesday, May 5 at
the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 9100 Mission Rd, Leawood,

Kansas. Donations may be made to the American Heart Association.

==> FCC AFFIRMS VANITY CALL SIGN RULES

The FCC dismissed a petition filed by Richard Essen, N6CX (ex-AB3IQ), of
Silver Spring, Maryland, regarding the issuance of a vanity call sign to
Allan Corderman
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-997A1.pdf >. In
its decision, the FCC said that Corderman's application for his new call
sign was valid and the call sign was "properly granted" by the FCC.

On December 22, 2006, Winfield Brantley of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina,
surrendered his call sign -- W3ZD -- when the FCC approved his
application for a new call sign. On December 10, 2008, Allan Corderman,
WB1EFN, of New Orleans, Louisiana, applied for W3ZD, stating he was a
close relative of a former holder of the call sign. Section 97.19(c)(3)
of the FCC rules regarding vanity call signs state that while a
surrendered call sign is not available to the vanity call sign system
for two years, certain relatives of the deceased former holder or clubs
(in certain circumstances) may apply for the call sign in the two year
"grace period"
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.19.pdf>.
Corderman stated in his application that he was the son of Roy C.
Corderman, now deceased, and a former holder of W3ZD.

In January 2009, Richard Essen, N6CX (ex-AB3IQ), of Silver Spring,
Maryland, petitioned the FCC, asking that the Commission reconsider
Corderman's application for W3ZD, saying that the application should not
have been granted because the exception in the vanity call sign system's
rules apply only to close survivors of the most recent person to hold
the call sign, and not to close relatives of any deceased prior holder.

The FCC disagreed with Essen's petition, saying that "[w]hen the
Commission adopted Section 97.19(c)(3), it stated that it was granting
priority to 'close relatives of deceased holders,' and did not say that
the priority applied only to close relatives of certain deceased
holders. The rule has always been interpreted to afford priority to
close relatives of any deceased former holder."

According to Section 97.19(c)(3), "Except for an applicant who is the
spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent,
brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or
in-law, and except for an applicant who is a club station license
trustee acting with the written consent of at least one relative, as

listed above, of a person now deceased, the call sign shown on the license of [a] person now deceased is not available to the vanity call sign system for 2 years following the person's death, or for 2 years following the expiration of the license grant, whichever is sooner."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Sunshine trickles on the floor" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: A Solar Cycle 23 spot appeared for two days -- April 29-30 -- in an area that soon rotated out of view. Sunspot numbers were 15 and 12, but for the last seven days, we haven't seen any spots. This may end soon -- we get the advance word because of the STEREO mission <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/where.shtml>, which is gradually able to see more and more of the sun not visible from Earth. On May 5-6, the STEREO B satellite was able to see an eruption from an active region around the eastern edge of the Sun, outside of our view. If sunspots emerge, they will be Solar Cycle 24 spots, due to their relatively high latitude. Sunspot numbers for April 30-May 6 were 12, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 1.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.4, 68.5, 68.3, 68.6, 68, 68 and 68.7 with a mean of 68.5. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 5, 5, 4, 2 and 6 with a mean of 4.3. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2 and 6 with a mean of 2.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought
to you by John Clare's "May" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/may-2/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for another running of the NCCC Sprint Ladder on May 8. The FISTS Spring Sprint is May 9. On May 9-10, look for the SBMS 2 GHz and Up WW Club Contest (local time), the CQ-M International DX Contest, the VOLTA WW RTTY Contest, the Nevada Mustang Roundup and the 50 MHz Spring Sprint. The SKCC Weekend Sprint is
May 10. Next week is the Feld Hell Sprint on May 16. The EU PSK DX Contest, His Majesty King of Spain Contest (CW) and the Manchester Mineira All America CW Contest are May 16-17. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is May 18 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and QRP Minimal Art Session are May 21. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See
the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the
ARRL Special Event Station Web page

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 24, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 5, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News on May 15: Due to staff attendance at the ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention, there will be no ARRL Audio News on May 15. The ARRL Letter will be distributed that day. ARRL Audio News will resume regular distribution on May 22.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter
will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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193. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-09 13:41:01 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <a7c439ed-270f-4b97-b6d5-211fd5ecb14f@m24g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2003
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 6, 6:08 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> N...@AOL.COM wrote:
> > On May 6, 7:37 am, Bill Horne wrote:

> > AFAIK, the reason the Supremes ruled the way they did was
> > that the no-antennas clauses could in many cases create
> > a de-facto monopoly for the cable TV companies by excluding
> > the pizza-dish satellite and free-broadcast-TV folks. Interstate
> > commerce, free market and all that.

> If that's the case (pun intended), I'm even more scared.
> Although
> the Supreme Court may have wanted to prevent a monopoly in
> _distribution_ of TV signals, I would be much more
> comfortable if
> their ruling was to prevent a monopoly in the _choice_ of TV
> programs.

I'm not sure what you mean, Bill.

In most parts of the country, a viewer can get at least five different broadcast TV networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS). While there's a lot of similarities in the programming, (many sitcoms are rehashes of "The Honeymooners"), there's still a lot of choice.

> > But amateur radio is by definition noncommercial, so we're not
> > included. FCC could only do what the Court told them to do.
>
> Well, yes, we're devoid of pecuniary interest, but not of political
> interest. If I choose to discuss politics on ham radio, why isn't
> that sufficiently important to merit protection from arbitrary
> restriction?

(insert non-lawyer disclaimer HERE)

AFAIK, it's because the govt. doesn't see it as their job to protect your ability to discuss politics via radio. It's not even protected in broadcasting (remember the demise of the fairness doctrine?) so I don't think they'd see amateur radio as needing protection.

It is an interesting point, though.
>
> Before r.r.a.m. readers kneejerk and say "But CC&R's are
> contracts!",
> I'll explain that CC&R's awaken a monster called "Social
> Contract" that

> has been sleeping for a long time. Sufficient to say, AFAICT
> the idea is
> that a free man is entitled to bargain away his freedom,
> and that's
> not something our society has chosen to allow.

I'd like to hear more about this idea. Particularly "social contract".

It seems to me that many forms of contract consist of bargaining away one's freedom for some benefit or other. The benefits of being married require that one give up the freedoms of being single. The benefits of being employed require bargaining for pay, benefits, etc., and if an employee invents something worth millions, it will almost certainly be the property of the employer unless there's a specific contract otherwise.

Perhaps what you're saying is that a person cannot be required to bargain away everything; that there are some rights which cannot be sold. For example, if an employment contract required that all employees vote a certain way and no other as a condition of employment, the contract probably wouldn't stand up to a legal challenge, because buying/selling votes is illegal.

Is that what you mean?

> If the OTARD rules applied only to TV antennas or one-way
> satellite
> dishes, I'd be able to make an argument that hams, as a class,
> were
> being denied the chance to debate the issues of the day.
> However,
> the rules also prohibit CC&R restrictions on wireless Internet
> access (presumably WiMAX, although there may be others), so
> I'm left
> with the argument that a restriction on _any_ means of
> expressing
> my political opinion should be prevented.

Interesting point but I don't know if it would apply. AFAIK, the preemption of restrictions on internet antennas could be based on the same anti-monopoly argument: if you allow wires and fibers but not antennas, the wired-internet-access folks would have a monopoly on internet access, at least in some places. (In my neighborhood, one can get highspeed internet by DSL, cable, and fiber-optic, but in other areas the choices may be fewer.)

> > I agree with the concern but disagree that older housing is
> > less-desirable. In my area, unrestricted houses consistently
> > sell for *higher* prices, and sell faster, than restricted ones
> > of comparable size.

> I meant "lacking CC&R restrictions", not "aged". The problem is
> that the supply of available land around major cities is at or

> near to exhaustion , and developers have been buying up and
> leveling old factories, warehouse, and even older housing
> stock in order to keep the supply of McMansions constant.
> If they're adding deed restrictions as a matter of routine,
> then it's only a matter of time before that's all that's
> available.

Agreed. Worse, the restrictions are being applied to homes with lots of land and good visual screening (trees), so that the "tower next to a townhome" scenario isn't the problem.

> P.S. I wonder if M.A.R.S. has (or could get) the authority to
> override CC&R restrictions. If that's so, then they're sitting
> on the proverbial gold mine ...

I don't know that anyone has tried that angle. Interesting! Perhaps the argument could be that anti-antenna rules discourage both the existence of MARS and having participants in certain areas.

I think that challenges to CC&Rs have to proceed carefully, though. A poorly-mounted challenge that loses in court sets a bad precedent for future ones.

I think the real issue comes down to: What is a reasonable use of one's home and property, and what is an unreasonable restriction to that use?

For example, building codes are reasonable because they're based on safety, even if they mean I cannot build anything I want anywhere on my land. A prohibition on my running a car-repair business in my residential driveway is similarly reasonable because it's a home, not a commercial property.

OTOH, requiring that homes be painted a certain color is unreasonable, as is prohibiting simple auto repairs and maintenance on one's own vehicles, because those things are part of what you do with a home.

In the same way, having an amateur radio station in one's home is a completely reasonable use of the property. The noncommercial nature of Amateur Radio supports that idea as well.

73 de Jim, N2EY

194. Re: How to write CC&R's

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-09 17:30:23 UTC
From: KC4UAI <kc4uai@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <5b865d56-f05c-46c7-b785-83b8368d549f@z19g2000vbz.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2004

On May 7, 11:20 am, N...@AOL.COM wrote:
> > What is reasonable?
>
> Is the development condos? Townhouses? Duplexes? Single family homes?
> How big are the lots? Are there trees, fences, etc.?

Single family homes, few mature trees, lot size a bit bigger than
normal for the area but usually under 2/10 of an acre. My lot is
about 65' deep and 100' wide.

>
> Why wouldn't they agree to a ten or fifteen foot mast to hold a wire
> antenna or small beam?

I'm hoping they will agree to something like that. My single story
house is about 18' at the top and I was hoping that they would allow a
mast with the top few feet visable from the street to hold up some
wire. I'd also like to put up a low visiual impact verticle that might
extend 30' above the mast (with the radials hidden by the roof line.)

> It seems to me that the absolute minimum that should be accepted is
> what the OTARD ruling allows. But you don't start there; you start with
> more in order to have some room to negotiate. Ask for the sun, accept
> the moon.

I'm considering asking for "antenna support structures" not to exceed
10' visable from the street (when not in use) in front of the house,
no setback restrictions on wire antennas and an antenna height above
that not to exceed 30' for verticals. All subject to local zoning
rules and building codes. This would allow both wire, beam and
vertical antennas with pretty reasonable performance.

> Let *them* defend their requirements - don't do it for them. Consider
> what you would put up if all the restrictions were removed, and propose
> that.

I was planning to present them with a rewritten guideline that allowed
antennas then show up to the meeting and let them discuss the
changes. I figure they will question the antenna rule changes and
I'll show up prepaired to encourage them to allow antennas for ham
radio purposes.

Who knows, they may assume that all this is OTARD forced and not ask
any questions... I just don't know if I really want them to get upset
with me should they later figure I tricked them.

>
> Also, I'd make a big differentiation between antennas mounted to the
> building and antennas with their own free-standing support structure.
> I'd also make special provisions for wire antennas, exempting them from
> setbacks and such.

Good point.. I'll do that.

> > Is there a way to make it apply only to amateur radio operators that
> > doesn't draw too much attention to the policy?
>
> You could include a clause that specifies antennas "used by FCC-
> licensed radio operators" or some such. Also that all such antennas
> "must be used in compliance with all applicable FCC regulations".

This is an excellent aproach. Where I don't want to trick anybody, I
don't want to make this obvious either. Your approach accomplishes
the task in a way consistant with the pretext I'm using to justify
makeing the changes in the first place. I like it.

> > I suspect that they might go for it if I can demonstrate that there
> > won't be a bunch of towers going up and if most of the things they
> > allow are nearly unseen. Currently there are only two licensed hams in
> > the subdivision.
>
> Get them on the team so you all agree.

I'll have to contact the other ham and see if he's even interested. I
personally don't know him nor have I heard him on the air.

> One good tool is to collect photos of amateur antenna installations
> that you consider acceptable, so they know what you mean. Of course you
> only want installations that are well-engineered and installed in a
> highly workmanlike manner. Another tool is to take a picture of your
> house and photoshop in an antenna that you'd like to have.

The photo shop idea had crossed my mind. I was thinking of taking
pictures of various houses including mine and adding in various
comerical antennas that are scaled properly for the proposed rules.

> All of the above is IMHO

What does IMHO mean?

-= Bob =-

195. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-09 17:31:39 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <3ubb05lv6r2j3dh02mcr1s0us7jbqi6816@4ax.com>
Source record: 2005

On Sat, 9 May 2009 09:41:01 EDT, N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

> (In my neighborhood, one can
>get highspeed internet by DSL, cable, and fiber-optic, but in other
>areas the choices may be fewer.)

Here's a couple of other high-speed internet options: In my town, DSL
and cable internet is available only in the central part of town. In
the outlying area, the only options for high-speed internet are:
(a) Satellite (hughesnet, Wild Blue, etc.)
(b) Neighborhood versions of a wireless LAN, esentially an IEEE 802.11
system with small dish antennas on each subscriber's premises pointing
to one of several towers, each covering a few square miles. They
operate in the same bands (e.g., 2.4 GHz) as the wireless bridges made
by Linksys and others for use in your home.

> [snip]

>OTOH, requiring that homes be painted a certain color is unreasonable,

Towns in the New England states have historic districts which have
severe restrictions on what you can do to the outside of your
property. All the buildings must be white.

Dick, AC7EL

196. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-10 03:03:43 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <heidnVEVF5mAXZjXnZ2dnUVZ_h-dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2006

Richard wrote:
> On Sat, 9 May 2009 09:41:01 EDT, N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:
>
>> OTOH, requiring that homes be painted a certain color is unreasonable,
>
> Towns in the New England states have historic districts which have
> severe restrictions on what you can do to the outside of your
> property. All the buildings must be white.

The restrictions that apply in my area are less specific, requiring only
"historically accurate" colors.

Since there were only a few dyes available in pioneer days, paints had
only a few colors available to them, and one or two of those are so
awful that they can be used to frighten young children.

People are funny: if you order them to use "historically accurate"
colors, they get really busy finding the most putrescent hue of orange
that meets the letter of the law.

Tell a ham that he can't have an antenna, and ...

--
Bill Horne
Temporary Moderator
Telecom Digest

(When sending a post to the digest, please put "[Telecom]"
{without the quotes but _with_ the brackets} at the end of
your subject line, or I may never see your mail. Thanks!)

(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

197. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-10 03:06:23 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <oqCdnYFFhs_6IZjXnZ2dnUVZ_hCdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2007
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:
> On May 6, 6:08 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
>> N...@AOL.COM wrote:
>>> On May 6, 7:37 am, Bill Horne wrote:
>
>>> AFAIK, the reason the Supremes ruled the way they did was
>>> that the no-antennas clauses could in many cases create
>>> a de-facto monopoly for the cable TV companies by excluding
>>> the pizza-dish satellite and free-broadcast-TV folks. Interstate
>>> commerce, free market and all that.
>
>> If that's the case (pun intended), I'm even more scared.
>> Although the Supreme Court may have wanted to prevent
>> a monopoly in _distribution_ of TV signals, I would be
>> much more comfortable if their ruling was to prevent a
>> monopoly in the _choice_ of TV programs.
>
> I'm not sure what you mean, Bill.
>
> In most parts of the country, a viewer can get at least five different
> broadcast TV networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS). While there's a lot of
> similarities in the programming, (many sitcoms are rehashes of "The
> Honeymooners"), there's still a lot of choice.

Yes, you get to choose between Tall White Guy #315 and Tall White Guy #316 mouthing . But, that's not the point.

The choice of channels is unimportant, since all the programs are the same. What _is_ important is who gets paid. While they're all knockoffs of Aeschylus or Euripides or Sophocles or Aristophanes (or ...), the point is that someone collects money for them, and that if viewers can only choose Tall White Guy #315 instead of Tall White Guy #316, sooner or later someone is going to arrange for Tall White Guy #315 to stop mouthing and start preaching .

We could debate for hours about whether TV is _already_ a propaganda machine: the Tall White Guy makes all the decisions, everybody has new clothes, and new cars, and power over their lives, and all the problems are always solved in 60 minutes with time out for commercials. Suffice to say that it's sad, but necessary, for the Great American Public to have a choice, even if only between Tall White Guys: without that choice, TV becomes an instrument of the corporate state propaganda machine instead of only a cultural cesspool.

>>> But amateur radio is by definition noncommercial, so we're not
>>> included. FCC could only do what the Court told them to do.
>>
>> Well, yes, we're devoid of pecuniary interest, but not of political
>> interest. If I choose to discuss politics on ham radio, why isn't
>> that sufficiently important to merit protection from arbitrary
>> restriction?
>
> (IANALB)
>
> AFAIK, it's because the govt. doesn't see it as their job to protect
> your ability to discuss politics via radio. It's not even protected in
> broadcasting (remember the demise of the fairness doctrine?) so I don't
> think they'd see amateur radio as needing protection.
>
> It is an interesting point, though.
>
>> Before r.r.a.m. readers kneejerk and say "But CC&R's are
>> contracts!", I'll explain that CC&R's awaken a monster
>> called "Social Contract" that has been sleeping for a long
>> time. Sufficient to say, AFAICT the idea is that a free
>> man is entitled to bargain away his freedom, and that's
>> not something our society has chosen to allow.
>
> I'd like to hear more about this idea. Particularly "social contract".

See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_contract for a start.

> It seems to me that many forms of contract consist of bargaining away
> one's freedom for some benefit or other. The benefits of being married
> require that one give up the freedoms of being single. The benefits of
> being employed require bargaining for pay, benefits, etc., and if an
> employee invents something worth millions, it will almost certainly be
> the property of the employer unless there's a specific contract
> otherwise.
>
> Perhaps what you're saying is that a person cannot be required to
> bargain away everything; that there are some rights which cannot be
> sold. For example, if an employment contract required that all
> employees vote a certain way and no other as a condition of employment,
> the contract probably wouldn't stand up to a legal challenge, because
> buying/selling votes is illegal.
>
> Is that what you mean?

What I mean is that "we" should not attempt be able to abrogate by
contract those things which are the legitimate purposes of government.
Contracts, after all, require consideration by their very nature:
IANALB, no consideration, no contract[1]; ergo, either of the
contracting parties may offer consideration which the society as a whole
can't tolerate. If I'm a developer, and I think that "those" people
shouldn't live next to "my" people, it used to be something I could put

into the deed. The society has an interest in making sure that "those" people are the _same_ as "my" people, because time has proven that that sort of bias is dangerous and leads to persecution and even to war.

Just as Caesar's wife must be above reproach, so Caesar's courtyard must be open to all. Private contracts are inherently discriminatory, since they are agreements between individuals, each of whom is seeking the maximum benefit for _himself_, and not considering that of the _society_. A group of McMansions may "look better" to a buyer if there are no antennas present - unless most of them already have one, and then it's a status symbol - but it's dangerous to let the populace think that it could look better if there are none of "those people" present.

As I said before, CC&R's can be used to discriminate against potential buyers according to their economic class, which is another way of keeping "those people" away, and that's not something the government can allow. In other words, CC&R's may be used to discriminate against "people who ask too many questons" about where the management fees go and just exactly what they're getting in return, or "people who are too intelligent to believe that a well clipped and groomed and fertilized lawn for only $69.95 a month" is important, or "that &*)(*& radio ham who told everyone that the rumor I planted to convince them to buy freeze dried food is bunk because he actually talks to the froggy little native boys I want everyone to be afraid of".

This is, of course, an oversimplification. Information is, and always will be, the enemy of ignorance: CC&R's can be used to keep people ignorant, even if only of the minority view expressed by Type 4 Personalities who have Amateur Radio antennas on their roof.

Bill, W1AC

[1] Consideration in the sense of value changing hands, in the form of currency, precious metals or gems, services performed or promised, etc. The list is endless, but their _has_ to be _something_ of value transferred.

--
Bill Horne
(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

198. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-10 18:57:57 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <ff455004-1e50-4fe4-bb2e-035c97a8db3d@r3g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2008
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On May 9, 11:06 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> N...@AOL.COM wrote:
> > On May 6, 6:08 pm, Bill Horne wrote:

> > In most parts of the country, a viewer can get at
> > least five different
> > broadcast TV networks (ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS).
> > While there's a lot of
> > similarities in the programming, (many sitcoms are
> > rehashes of "The
> > Honeymooners"), there's still a lot of choice.

> Yes, you get to choose between Tall White Guy
> #315 and Tall White
> Guy #316 mouthing that sound studly but don't
> offend anyone who buys soap>. But, that's not
> the point.
>
> The choice of channels is unimportant, since all
> the programs are the same.

With all due respect, I think you may be presuming your conclusion a
bit there. While there are many similarities, I don't think all the
programs are the same, or even similar.

> What _is_ important is who gets paid. While they're
> all knockoffs
> of Aeschylus or Euripides or Sophocles or
> Aristophanes (or ...), the
> point is that someone collects money for them, and that
> if viewers can
> only choose Tall White Guy #315 instead of Tall White
> Guy #316, sooner
> or later someone is going to arrange for Tall White Guy
> #315 to stop
> mouthing and start
>preaching .
>
"If Euripides and Iripidoes we'll get done faster...."

> We could debate for hours about whether TV
> is _already_ a propaganda
> machine: the Tall White Guy makes all the
> decisions, everybody has new
> clothes, and new cars, and power over their

> lives, and all the problems
> are always solved in 60 minutes with time out
> for commercials. Suffice
> to say that it's sad, but necessary, for the
> Great American Public to
> have a choice, even if only between Tall White Guys: without that
> choice, TV becomes an instrument of the corporate
> state propaganda
> machine instead of only a cultural cesspool.
>

Ah, now I see the point. It's not the program itself that matters as much as the extreme similarity of the underlying messages, and the centralized control of those messages. Programming that does not fit the mold winds up never being produced, or being cancelled quickly, or being relegated to venues with tiny audiences.

None of which is new, really A classic case of was what happened to the original "WKRP", which in its time was quite original and groundbreaking in many ways. Despite being the #7 prime-time show, and costing almost nothing to produce, it was cancelled after 3 seasons. It was too far out of the mold of the time, its characters were definitely not variations of the Tall White Guy, and the messages of the shows were very different. And it was just a half-hour sitcom!

If nothing else, American TV presents a very distorted view of what most people do for a living. Almost all "real-life" dramas, and many comedies, center on the fields of law enforcement or health care, and ignore the far wider range of things Americans do at work.

> What I mean is that "we" should not attempt be able to
> abrogate by
> contract those things which are the legitimate purposes of
> government.

That is an excellent point. I think it nails down what bothers so many of us about CC&Rs.

> Contracts, after all, require consideration by their very nature:
> IANALB, no consideration, no contract[1]; ergo, either of the
> contracting parties may offer consideration which the society
> as a whole can't tolerate.

AGREED!

Another angle is that the process lacks the checks and balances of government, as well as the ability to be changed. Also, it can tend to make government neglect its rightful functions.

For example, zoning is a legitimate function of government. Zoning creates and enforces regulations for things like permitted uses, lot and building sizes, environmental protection, etc. But there are defined limits on what zoning can and regulate.

For example, a zoning ordinance about signage can limit the number and size of political signs visible from the street that you can put on your property, but cannot ban them outright (freedom of speech). Any such ordinance is subject to variance, change or abolition, too. If a person buys a property and doesn't like the signage ordinances, they can apply for a variance or try to get the ordinance changed, and there are procedures and methods to do so. The argument that "you bought a property subject to those ordinances, so you have no right to ask for a change" doesn't hold any water; every citizen has the right to petition their government for a change.

But a no-signs CC&R avoids all that, and can be written to be virtually eternal and unchangeable. And the argument that "you signed the contract" is used as the trump card.

> If I'm a developer, and I think that "those" people
> shouldn't live next to "my" people, it used to be something
> I could put
> into the deed.

And this was done, either directly or indirectly.

> The society has an interest in making sure that "those"
> people are the _same_ as "my" people, because time
> has proven that that
> sort of bias is dangerous and leads to persecution and
> even to war.

Yup. It's also unconstitutional.

> Just as Caesar's wife must be above reproach, so Caesar's
> courtyard must
> be open to all. Private contracts are inherently
> discriminatory, since
> they are agreements between individuals, each of whom is
> seeking the
> maximum benefit for _himself_, and not considering that of the
> _society_.

I think private contracts have their place; many forms of business could not exist without them.

However, there is a world of difference between a private contract where A agrees to supply a certain number of Type X widgets to B according to an agreed-upon payment and delivery schedule, and a private contract where, as a condition of sale, B agrees to do or not do something with whatever it was that was bought from A.

> A group of McMansions may "look better" to a buyer if there
> are no antennas present - unless most of them already have
> one, and then
> it's a status symbol - but it's dangerous to let the populace
> think that
> it could look better if there are none of "those people" present.

And of course the danger is that if we allow discrimination against "those people", the time may come when *we* are "those people", and won't be able to protest because the principle is so well established.

> As I said before, CC&R's can be used to discriminate
> against potential
> buyers according to their economic class, which is another
> way of
> keeping "those people" away, and that's not something the
> government can
> allow. In other words, CC&R's may be used to
> discriminate against
> "people who ask too many questons" about where
> the management fees go
> and just exactly what they're getting in return, or "people who
> are too
> intelligent to believe that a well clipped and groomed and fertilized
> lawn for only $69.95 a month" is important, or "that &*)(*& radio
> ham
> who told everyone that the rumor I planted to convince them
> to buy
> freeze dried food is bunk because he actually talks to the
> froggy little
> native boys I want everyone to be afraid of".

Exactly. There are many variations but they're all the same theme.

I don't know if I've posted the following analogy here before, but I think it illustrates the problem.

Suppose CC&Rs applied to cars.

We already have government regulations for cars about safety, pollution and fuel economy. Many states require periodic inspections, too. Whether they are good regs or bad is another issue, but they are a legitimate function of government because of the public-safety interest and the use of a public resource (the roads).

Automakers have partial control over what carbuyers can do with their vehicles through the warranty process. However their only power is the ability to have it so that doing certain things (such as neglecting maintenance) voids the warranty contract.

But suppose automakers could apply CC&Rs to cars. Suppose they could require that all cars be brought back on schedule to an authorized dealer for all maintenance and repairs. And that owners could not fix, maintain or modify their cars in any way, under penalty of a fine up to and including having the car repossessed. Such CC&Rs could include things like having to keep the car clean, not allowing bumper stickers, bike racks or aftermarket stereos, no "Baby On Board" signs, etc. And of course no ham radios!

The automakers could claim that such rules would insure that the cars would be safer, more efficient, less polluting and longer lasting. Such

rules would also protect the reputation of the automaker.

They would also make life easier for state governments, because inspections would be redundant. Theft of CC&R'd cars would be low because the only source of parts and maintenance would be dealers, and they'd know instantly if a stolen car were brought in. Insurance rates would be lower too.

Of course very few people would buy a car with CC&Rs, because they'd balk at the limitations and the high price of always having to go to the dealer for everything. Plus the constant threat of fines and repo of a car that was paid for and in good shape for its age.

But what if most automakers did it? Your choice of cars would be limited to the few automakers who didn't, plus old cars from the pre-CC&R era. Eventually you'd find it almost impossible to have a non-CC&R car.

The above example may sound ridiculous, but there was a time, not too long ago, when suggesting that a homeowner not be allowed to put an antenna on his house would have been considered ridiculous, too.

> This is, of course, an oversimplification. Information is, and
> always
> will be, the enemy of ignorance: CC&R's can be used to
> keep people
> ignorant, even if only of the minority view expressed by Type 4
> Personalities who have Amateur Radio antennas on their roof.

It's even worse than that. What's needed is *good* information, not just information. A person who believes bad information can be worse than someone who is ignorant, because the ignorant person (if s/he has basic rationality) knows s/he is ignorant, but the person with bad information believes it is good information.

> [1} Consideration in the sense of value changing hands, in
> the form of
> currency, precious metals or gems, services performed or
> promised, etc.
> The list is endless, but their _has_ to be _something_ of value
> transferred.

Agreed, but there has to be a limit; some things cannot be bargained away.

Good points - thanks!

73 de Jim, N2EY

199. need advice on help for an old ham operator

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-11 06:38:27 UTC
From: Mike <tutufan@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <cd6015e4-5e1f-419a-82cc-50fc19fc3081@z7g2000vbh.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2009

Hi,

I wonder if I could trouble one of you for a little advice. My father-in-law was a ham radio guy for many years, did radio during WWII, has a 50ft (?) tower in his back yard, etc. I unfortunately missed out on all of this, since I only met him a few years ago. He's in his 80s now and I think has been out of the radio thing for a decade or so.

More recently, he's bed-ridden with some health problems, which needless to say is pretty boring, and I got the thought that maybe he'd enjoy having a portable shortwave radio to play with. Do you have any thoughts about whether an old ham might find one of these $50-150 portable units engaging? Any suggestions, particularly with respect to something that would be tolerant of limited manual dexterity and seem reasonably familiar to and old-timer?

Thanks,
Mike

200. Re: need advice on help for an old ham operator

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-11 11:44:18 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <PumdnX9nLI3hkpXXnZ2dnUVZ_rWdnZ2d@deskmedia.com>
Source record: 2010

Mike wrote:

> More recently, he's bed-ridden with some health problems, which
> needless to say is pretty boring, and I got the thought that maybe
> he'd enjoy having a portable shortwave radio to play with.

My immediate reaction when I read this was, "Ask him."

Individuals will react to this opportunity in different ways. For one thing, ham radio is a very diverse hobby. Being able to listen to the ham bands might appeal to someone who was active in the aspects of the hobby that involve talking to people, but your father-in-law might not have been involved in that aspect -- he might have more enjoyed building equipment. He might have had ham radio buddies locally, or far away, and the type of radio you would get would be different for these. Finally, for someone who was active on the bands, being able to hear but not transmit might be more frustrating than interesting.

Bottom line -- ham radio is a big hobby and people are very different, so it would not be appropriate for anyone else to speak to what a specific individual would prefer.

73, Steve KB9X

201. Re: need advice on help for an old ham operator

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-11 21:07:56 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <5aadnQgUZroqF5XXnZ2dnUVZ_g2dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 2011

Mike wrote:
> Hi,
>
> I wonder if I could trouble one of you for a little advice. My father-
> in-law was a ham radio guy for many years [snip]
>
> More recently, he's bed-ridden with some health problems, which
> needless to say is pretty boring, and I got the thought that maybe
> he'd enjoy having a portable shortwave radio to play with.

Mike,

Your Father-in-law will probably be dissatisfied with a consumer-grade radio, particularly the "shortwave" ones that run on batteries, since they don't have the features of a typical Amateur-grade receiver. I was in the hospital for an extended interval some years ago, and my father-in-law (yes, really) got me one of the "portable" units. Trying to use it for anything other than the BBC was an exercise in frustration.

First things first, though: you need to answer these questions -

1. Be sure he's an Amateur Radio operator, and not a Citizens Band operator: CB'ers will have very different needs in radio gear. This is a delicate question to some hams, so I suggest you check the FCC database and find out from there. The FCC database is at http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/General_Menu_Reports/license_search.cfm - you'll need to chose "Amateur [AM]" under "Service".

2. Check with his physician, and make sure that he isn't using any medical devices which could be affected by radio-frequency energy. There _is_ a reason that visitors to hospitals are told to turn off their cellphones! If he can't have a transmitter near him, then you'll have to explain to him that he is only able to use a receiver, because once he hears his old friends, he'll want to crank up his transmitter again, and it's best to break that news gently, and in advance.

3. Find out if he speaks any language other than English. He may enjoy shortwave broadcasts in other languages.

For someone with limited mobility, I'd recommend a handi-talkie that he can use on the local Amateur repeaters (provided that he can use _any_ kind of transmitter): if he has limited use of his hands, you can get him a headset with a voice-activated transmit-receive switch (it's

called "VOX"), or he can simply use a detachable microphone, which weights a lot less than the actual radio. Most HT's will also offer "scanner" features so that he can listen to police, fire, and industrial radio channels if the ham bands are idle.

If he's unable to use a transmitter, then the members of your local amateur radio club (see http://www.arrl.org/ for their contact info) will be able to advise you on the best receiver and antenna setup. Be sure to talk to the local club(s), since their members will probably know him already, and once of them might have a "loaner" that your father-in-law can use instead of buying a new unit.

I hope this helps.

Best regards,

Bill, W1AC
P.S. You didn't say if you would expect emails sent to you directly, so I'll cc: this to your email address.

--
Bill Horne
(Remove QRM from my address for direct replies.)

202. Re: need advice on help for an old ham operator

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-12 12:52:57 UTC
From: KC5FM/WX5EM/WQDE391 <colstonl@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <24ae4de7-1628-42e7-a521-72fe2b2f676f@o14g2000vbo.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2012

On May 11, 1:38 am, Mike <tutu...@gmail.com> wrote:

> $50-150 portable units engaging? Any suggestions, particularly with
> respect to something that would be tolerant of limited manual
> dexterity and seem reasonably familiar to and old-timer?

Mike,

If he IS a ham radio operator and has a computer close at hand,
perhaps he'd enjoy Echolink (http://www.echolink.org) or getting on
one of the remote bases using W4MQ software (http://www.w4mq.com). In
the latter, one of the stations in FL makes special dispensation for
those shutins, if I remember right.

It might take some hand-holding for a day or two but I bet he'd catch
on quick.

73

Lloyd, KC5FM

203. Re: Texas CC&R Relief Bills Introduced

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-13 04:11:26 UTC
From: George Csahanin <george@dyb.com>
Message-ID: <JbqOl.18350$D32.7946@flpi146.ffdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2013

Hey Hans, long time...

The issue I have with these CC&R's is the point of "willingly signed". In a majority of cases I've coem across while I was *the* Arcitectural Control Comittee is that the homeowner may have signed willingly, but had zero clue as to what they were signing.

I remember when I first encountered these restrictions, I wrote an antenna clause into the sale contract, the response...when the houses areound me are sold (new development) ask again, which I did and they approved.

But the real estate industry thinks these things are protectiong values. I disagree, they have become the same as zoning, and need to be treated as such.If we are at the point where it is impossible to find a home without restrictions (and around her that IS the case) it needs to be dealt with.

Here in Texas its been rolled in with legislation that would preserve the right to place political lawn signs and another regarding flags and flag poles.

Who knows, it may pass. Good press here for amateurs after hurricanes, etc.

GeorgeC
W2DB
(ex- WB2DYB)
near but not in AUSTIN, TX

"K&#65533;HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:gtdj7jsri1@news.motzarella.org...
>
>
>>
>> It strikes me as somewhat illogical that utility companies can put up
>> poles 50 or more feet tall with wires, transformers, insulators and
>> all kinds of hardware on them, yet when a ham wants "a tower", it's
>> somehow going to ruin the neighborhood.
>>
>
> Keeping in context here, Jim, the developments which restrict towers,
> etc., generally also have buried utilities.
>
> While I sympathize with hams in CC&R/HOA developments, I don't anticipate
> any legislative relief from private contracts willingly signed by
> homebuyers.
>
> The "way around" this is to simply live in a neighborhood without such

> restrictions. Both my homes are in "nice" urban neighborhoods, and
> neither has any private antenna structure restrictions beyond normal city
> zoning laws. You just have to look a little harder.
>
> --
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
>
>
>

204. SPECIAL NOTICE: No Newsline Prefeed Script or Audio This Week For Newscast 1657

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-13 05:44:17 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090512223044.02e6e708@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2014
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Hello,

Because of our travel to the Dayton Hamvention there will be no prefeed to you of this weeks upcoming newscast #1657.

Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, is producing and will be posting it to our website http://www.arnewsline.org sometime late Thursday and you are welcome to download the files from there. Don does not have this distribution list as it exists only on my PC and a backup flash drive.

I will do a feed to this list when I return late Sunday night (actually early Monday Morning May 18th.)

Note: If you do decide to download the files from our website, please wait until you see the newscast number 1657 at the top of our home page.

RE: Dayton: We will be hosting the Ham Radio Town Meeting beginning at 11:45 a.m. EDT in Meeting Room 2 at the Hara Arena. Hope to see some of you in Dayton at Hamvention 2009.

73 de Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF Editor, etc. ARNewsline, Inc.

205. Re: How to write CC&R's

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-13 13:02:07 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <b3cca1ec-7735-4ac8-9d69-436b9d5aefda@v4g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2015

On May 9, 1:30 pm, KC4UAI <kc4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On May 7, 11:20 am, N...@AOL.COM wrote:
>
> Single family homes, few mature trees, lot size a bit bigger than
> normal for the area but usually under 2/10 of an acre. My lot is
> about 65' deep and 100' wide.

That's a fairly small lot for amateur radio purposes. That it is wide
and shallow means lots of street visibility and not much back yard.

> > Why wouldn't they agree to a ten or fifteen foot mast to hold a wire
> > antenna or small beam?
>
> I'm hoping they will agree to something like that. My single story
> house is about 18' at the top and I was hoping that they would allow a
> mast with the top few feet visable from the street to hold up some
> wire. I'd also like to put up a low visiual impact verticle that might
> extend 30' above the mast (with the radials hidden by the roof line.)

Two suggestions:

1) Don't mention "visible from the street" - that's too vague. Focus on
measurable things like maximum height, maximum height above the roof,
etc.

2) Look up what OTARD allows and add to it. If OTARD allows 30 feet, go
for 40. If OTARD allows 35 feet, go for 45.

> > It seems to me that the absolute minimum that should be accepted is
> > what the OTARD ruling allows. But you don't start there; you start with
> > more in order to have some room to negotiate. Ask for the sun, accept
> > the moon.
>
> I'm considering asking for "antenna support structures" not to exceed
> 10' visable from the street (when not in use) in front of the house,
> no setback restrictions on wire antennas and an antenna height above
> that not to exceed 30' for verticals. All subject to local zoning
> rules and building codes. This would allow both wire, beam and
> vertical antennas with pretty reasonable performance.

I think you're being too restrictive on heights and the visible-from-
the-street thing. OTOH, the "when not in use" is good because it allows
crank-up and fold-over antennas.

> I was planning to present them with a rewritten guideline that allowed
> antennas then show up to the meeting and let them discuss the
> changes. I figure they will question the antenna rule changes and

> I'll show up prepaired to encourage them to allow antennas for ham
> radio purposes.

Good plan. The thing is, you have to give yourself some bargaining
room.

> Who knows, they may assume that all this is OTARD forced and not ask
> any questions... I just don't know if I really want them to get upset
> with me should they later figure I tricked them.

Don't try to trick anyone! Just present your case and don't help them
shoot it down.

> > Also, I'd make a big differentiation between antennas mounted to the
> > building and antennas with their own free-standing support structure.
> > I'd also make special provisions for wire antennas, exempting them from
> > setbacks and such.
>
> Good point.. I'll do that.

Excellent
>
> The photo shop idea had crossed my mind. I was thinking of taking
> pictures of various houses including mine and adding in various
> comerical antennas that are scaled properly for the proposed rules.

That's a big help. Picture worth 10,000 words and all that.

> > All of the above is IMHO
>
> What does IMHO mean?
>
In My Humble Opinion

73 es GL de Jim, N2EY

206. Time to write Congress... HR2160

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-13 13:03:49 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090513125003.6555030491@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2016
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

HR 2160 is important legislation for Amateur Radio. It is proposed: To promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of amateur radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of amateur radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

ARRL Seeks Member Support for HR 2160

To support HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- the ARRL is asking its membership to contact their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation.

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task -- one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9-11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expediently received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative. "Personalized letters

make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your Congressman on the ARRL Members Only Web page.

Once personalized, ARRL members should send their letter to Chwat & Co using one of three methods:

As a signed attachment to an e-mail

As a signed fax to 703-684-7594

As a regular letter to:

John Chwat,

Chwat & Co

625 Slaters Lane

Suite 103

Alexandria, VA 22314.

If you choose to e-mail your letter, please send it as an attachment to the e-mail instead of it being the text of the e-mail. This allows the letter to be easily printed and delivered. Should you decide to draft your own letter supporting HR 2160 instead of editing the sample, Henderson asked that you please remember a couple of things:

- Identify the bill by number and title: HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009

- Keep the letter brief and on topic -- one page at the most

- Ask them to consider becoming a cosponsor

- Thank them for their consideration

"Simple is better when making this kind of request to a representative," said Henderson. "They and their staff are looking to gauge interest and support for the Bill. A lengthy letter that strays off-topic can detract from the focus of asking for support for the legislation."

Should you decide not to send your letter to Chwat & Co but directly to your Representative, it is still important that you send a copy of your correspondence to Chwat & Co. This allows them to discuss accurately with the Congressman and their staff the amount of support for the bill in each individual district. "There is strength in numbers," Henderson added.

Besides bill sponsor Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), the ARRL is fortunate to already have six additional members of Congress who have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 2160 -- Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren

(CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-02).

"We congratulate ARRL Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and his grassroots legislative action team in Kentucky for securing the support of Representative Guthrie -- the first new co-sponsor of the bill," Henderson said. "It shows that our grassroots effort can work!"

You may be asking yourself "What should I do if my Representative has already signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2160?" The answer is simple: Thank them for their support. If your Congressman is one of those listed as a co-sponsor, please send them a letter thanking them for their support. Use the same contact information for Chwat & Co. "It is important to convey your appreciation to your Representative when they sign on as a co-sponsor or support the bill," Henderson explained. "That simple 'thank you' may help open the door the next time their help is needed."

Once you have prepared and sent your letter supporting HR 2160, your job is not over: Feedback is an important part of the process. "What your Congressman has to say in regards to your contact can provide the ARRL with important information as we try to push our bill forward," Henderson noted. "This feedback can possibly help us identify potential new support for the bill or a weakness in the legislation we may need to address."

When you receive a response from your Congressman, please forward a copy to the Regulatory Information Office at ARRL Headquarters via e-mail or hard copy to Regulatory Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity -- but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," Henderson summarized. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and covenants. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies."

Your consideration and support are solicited.

Thanks!

Art

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
---

207. Connector source

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-13 18:56:44 UTC
From: K0HB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <1A2AF6E1950545BBAD3CFDA636D909BD@BigGuyII>
Source record: 2017

I need a matching pair of cable connectors for a marine radio application.

The connectors need to be 9-pin (male and female pair), carry small signals levels and 12VDC power/gnd. Wire gauge 18 or 20 is fine for all circuits, signal circuits could be smaller. Must be able to field terminate with common hand tools/solder, and most important MUST be waterproof (not submersed, but in a "splashy" environment). Form factor not overly important -- I'd like round "twist together" form, but a waterproof DB9 would be perfectly acceptable.

Any ideas?

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/

208. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-15 06:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1242367201@panix.com>
Source record: 2018
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.9 2009/04/12 19:28:26
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc. |

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader |
opinions in March of 2009: |

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326 |

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider |
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to |
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated |
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying |
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt |
it permanently if successful. |

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently |
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which |
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and |
news.lists.misc. |

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those |
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want |
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at: |

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/ |

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either |
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including |
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc. |

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved |
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission |
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us |
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of |
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message) |
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may |
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with |
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded |
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct. |

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and | equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from | casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. | The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as | shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable | condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is | intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, | provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion | newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in | salvage condition. |

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be

more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management | Board: |

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers |

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

209. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 19 (Friday, May 15, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-15 21:09:29 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090515210857.CAEE93199F@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2019
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 19
May 15, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* ARRL Seeks Member Support for HR 2160
* FCC Resumes Enforcement Actions
* Scientists Predict Solar Cycle 24 to Peak in 2013
* PR-101 Course Introduced at ARRL National Convention
* Look for the June Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
* ARRL Public Relations Committee Honors PIOs
* Explore Radio Scouting at the 2009 ARRL National Convention
* National Hurricane Center's WX4NHC Sets on-the-air Station Test
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
No ARRL Audio News on May 15
Former Kentucky Section Manager Dave Vest, KZ4G (SK)

Reminder: There is no ARRL Audio News for Friday, May 15.

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> ARRL SEEKS MEMBER SUPPORT FOR HR 2160

To support HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
Enhancement Act of 2009 -- the ARRL is asking its membership to contact
their members of the US House of Representatives with a request to
become co-sponsors of this significant piece of legislation
<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bil
l
s&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

"Getting a bill successfully through Congress is a formidable task --
one that is going to require the involvement of every ARRL member,"
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said
ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Working with our Washington consulting firm Chwat & Co, we are laying a dynamic approach that will allow us to make our case most effectively. We have developed a strategy to maximize our impact when dealing with each member of Congress."

Since the anthrax scare that followed the 9/11 attacks, all incoming mail to Congress is delayed anywhere from four to six weeks while it is screened. This means using normal US Mail is no longer an effective method of letting Congress hear your voice. While e-mail is convenient, it is also not effective, due to the large volume of e-mail that each Congressional office receives.

"To ensure that ARRL members' letters are quickly and expediently received by Congress, our strategy is to ask ARRL members send their letters directly to Chwat & Co," said Henderson. "Chwat's staff will sort the letters by Congressional district and hand-deliver them to the appropriate House offices, providing a direct point of contact with the Congressman and their staff. This personal contact gives us the chance to provide not only letters from constituents, but information from the ARRL on why this legislation is important."

The ARRL has provided a sample letter for League members to personalize and send to their Congressional representative <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DearMemberOfCongressHR2160.doc>. "Personalized letters make a better impression than a standard form letter or petition," Henderson explained. You can find the name and address for your member of Congress on the ARRL Members Only Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/>.

Once it has been personalized, ARRL members should send their letter to Chwat & Co using one of three methods:
* As a signed attachment to an e-mail <arrl@chwatco.com>
* As a signed fax to 703-684-7594
* As a regular letter to John Chwat, Chwat & Co, 625 Slaters Ln, Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314

If you choose to e-mail your letter, please send it as an attachment to the e-mail instead of having it be the text of the e-mail. This allows the letter to be easily printed and delivered. Should you decide to draft your own letter supporting HR 2160 instead of editing the sample, Henderson asked that you please remember a couple of things:
* Identify the bill by number and title: HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009
* Keep the letter brief and on topic -- one page at the most
* Ask your congressional representative to consider becoming a cosponsor
* Thank them for their consideration

"Simple is better when making this kind of request to a representative,"

said Henderson. "They and their staff are looking to gauge interest and support for the bill. A lengthy letter that strays off-topic can detract
from the focus of asking for support for the legislation."

Should you decide not to send your letter to Chwat & Co but directly to your Representative, it is still important to send a copy of your correspondence to Chwat & Co. This allows Chwat to discuss accurately with the Congressman and their staff the amount of support for the bill in each individual district. "There is strength in numbers," Henderson added.

Aside from bill sponsor Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), the ARRL is fortunate to already have six additional members of Congress who
have signed on as co-sponsors of HR 2160 -- Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-2), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-2).

"We congratulate ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and his grassroots legislative action team in Kentucky for securing the support of Representative Guthrie -- the first new co-sponsor of the bill," Henderson said. "It shows that our grassroots effort can work!"

You may be asking yourself "What should I do if my Representative has already signed on as a co-sponsor for HR 2160?" The answer is simple: Thank them for their support. If your Congressman is one of those listed
as a co-sponsor, please send them a letter thanking them for their support. Use the same contact information for Chwat & Co. "It is important to convey your appreciation to your Representative when they sign on as a co-sponsor or support the bill," Henderson explained. "That
simple 'thank you' may help open the door the next time their help is needed."

Once you have prepared and sent your letter supporting HR 2160, your job
is not over: Feedback is an important part of the process. "What your Congressman has to say in regards to your contact can provide the ARRL with important information as we try to push our bill forward," Henderson noted. "This feedback can possibly help us identify potential new support for the bill or a weakness in the legislation we may need to
address."

When you receive a response from your Congressman, please forward a copy
to the Regulatory Information Office at ARRL Headquarters via e-mail <reginfo@arrl.org> or hard copy to Regulatory Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity
--
but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your
voice heard," Henderson summarized. "HR 2160 stands as the first step
in
trying to address the long standing problem of extending the
protections
afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 to deed restrictions and
covenants
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf>. To
be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away.
But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such
restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters
and other emergencies."

==> FCC RESUMES ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

On May 13, the FCC posted the first list of enforcement actions
<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/Welcome.html> since Laura Smith
took over as FCC Special Counsel. The 11 RFI-related letters to energy
providers were sent between February 18 and April 1, 2009, and the 7
warning letters to individuals were sent between February 18 and March
30, 2009.

==> SCIENTISTS PREDICT SOLAR CYCLE 24 TO PEAK IN 2013

At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, Colorado last
month <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/sww/index.html>, an international panel
of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC)
predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with 90 sunspots
per
day on average. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be
the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16, which peaked with 78 daily
sunspots in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750s, when numbered
cycles began.

The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles --
the
solar minimum -- occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar
Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If December's prediction
holds
up <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/07/100/>, at 12 years and
seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the
third
longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum
to minimum.

An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its
2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in
March
2008 and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun
also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they
called "moderately weak."

Although the peak is still four years away, a new active period of Earth-threatening solar storms will be the weakest since 1928. Despite the prediction, the scientists said that Earth is still vulnerable to a severe solar storm. Solar storms are eruptions of energy and matter that
escape from the Sun and may head toward Earth, where even a weak storm can damage satellites and power grids, disrupting communications, the electric power supply and GPS. A single strong blast of "solar wind" can
threaten national security, transportation, financial services and other
essential functions.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of sunspots -- Earth-sized blotches on the sun marking areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur, but a major storm can occur at any time.

"As with hurricanes, whether a cycle is active or weak refers to the number of storms, but everyone needs to remember it only takes one powerful storm to cause huge problems," said NOAA scientist Doug Biesecker, who chaired the panel. "The strongest solar storm on record occurred in 1859 during another below-average cycle." The 1859 storm shorted out telegraph wires, causing fires in North America and Europe and sent readings of Earth's magnetic field soaring. It also produced northern lights so bright that people read newspapers by their light, he
said.

Biesecker cited a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences that
found if a storm that severe occurred today, it could cause $1-2 trillion in damages the first year and require four to 10 years for recovery, compared to the $80-125 billion of damage that resulted from Hurricane Katrina
<http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12507&type=pdfxsum>.

The Space Weather Prediction Center is part of the National Weather Service and is one of the nine National Centers for Environmental Prediction. It is the nation's official source of space weather alerts, watches and warnings. SWPC provides real-time monitoring and forecasting
of solar and geophysical events that impact satellites, power grids, communications, navigation and many other technological systems.

==> PR-101 COURSE INTRODUCED AT ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION

The ARRL Public Relations Committee unveiled the new ARRL's PR-101 <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0133> course today at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention. The course -- designed to give hams a quick course in public relations activities -- was quickly snapped up by ARRL Section Managers, Public Information Coordinators (PIC) and Public Information Officers (PIO) to bring back to their home

sections.

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP,
the ARRL Public Relations Committee conducted a formal survey in December 2008 that confirmed what had long been suspected: Almost half of the people acting as PIOs have no training at all; others had "some training" or "very little training." Because of the importance of public
relations to the future of Amateur Radio, Pitts said that the PR Committee felt it needed to do something to raise the level of skills and training of these volunteers.

Using the skills of experts in various aspects of public relations, Pitts, assembled a team to create a basic course that will provide volunteer PIOs with the basic skills and expectations that a PIO needs to know. While remaining a basic level course, PR-101 covers everything from the basic news release to Web sites and video work.

"This course is geared toward PIOs and others interested in Public Relations," Pitts said. "While the course is voluntary, all ARRL PIOs are strongly encouraged to take the course."

Overall goals for the course are:
* To clarify the role of the PIO in the Field Organization.
* To establish a base set of expectations (job description) for a PIO to
fulfill, and peer pressure to do the job well.
* To establish, teach and verify that course graduates have the common basic skill set needed to accomplish expectations set forth in the PIO job description.
* To create a pool of trained PIOs who can be confidently called upon to
represent Amateur Radio in their region during breaking news events.
* To create a spirit of pride in being a trained and active PIO.
* To increase the productivity of PIOs and resultant positive media coverage.

"There is a critical need to offer public relations training that addresses the 21st century media landscape," said ARRL Public Relations Committee Chairman Bill Morine, N2COP. "Since the last revision of the "ARRL PIO Handbook" in the mid 1990s
<http://www.arrl.org/pio/handbook/>, domination of coverage has shifted from newspapers, magazines and broadcast stations to cable, satellite and Internet media outlets. The decentralization of media means there are many more ways and formats from which the public can access information. The PR-101 course will point ARRL PIOs in the direction where they can best take advantage of opportunities in both traditional and emerging media."

The course is available on CD-ROM. People can complete it on their own schedule; when finished, it guides them to the Web for the final exam.

"Participants who successfully complete the exam will be directed to a special area where they can create, print and save a certificate of completion," Pitts said. "It also automatically notifies ARRL staff with
the name and call sign of the graduating student, allowing a list to be kept of PIOs with known skills."

PR-101 course contributors include Bill Morine, N2COP; Don Carlson, KQ6FM; Walt Palmer, W4ALT; Kevin O'Dell, N0IRW; Jim McDonald, KB9LEI; Ted Randall, WB8PUM; Harold Kramer, WJ1B; Jeff Beiermann, WB0M; Brennan Price, N4QX; Pat Mullet, KC8RTW; Mike Langner, K5MGR, and Kent Sievers.

PR-101 <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0133> is available on the ARRL
Web site for a cost of $19.95.

==> LOOK FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The June issue of QST -- our annual Field Day issue -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Go ahead and experience the great outdoors this Field Day, June 27-28. Make your Field Day a success -- have you registered with the Online Field Day Locater Service yet? This great feature allows you to promote your site so others looking for a Field Day site near them can find you!Check it out on the ARRL Field Day Web page <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>. You might also want to take a look at five tips that will let you get the most out of your Field Day. From logging to safety to fun, make this your best Field Day ever!
Howard "Skip" Teller, KH6TY, says that digital modes aren't only for SSB. He encourages readers to try one on FM in his article "A Sound Card
Interface for FM Transceivers." Check out the article by Alan Bloom, N1AL "A Lightweight Homemade Keyer Paddle," and make some Morse magic with this light and easy-to build paddle. If you're looking to "hear" the stars, why not "Build a Homebrew Radio Telescope" using instructions
by ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME.

June is a great month for radiosport, with both the ARRL June VHF QSO Party and Field Day. While Field Day is more of an operating event than a contest, it is modeled after a contest in that points are earned for making contacts. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, takes a look at Field Day and points out that the annual event is a great training ground for contesters. In "This Month in Contesting," Kutzko gives pointers on how to maximize fun for both operators and clubs. The results of the 2008 ARRL 160 Meter Contest and the 2008 ARRL November Phone Sweepstakes are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did

your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in Contest
Corral.

QST Assistant Editor Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK, reviews the ICOM IC-7200 HF and 6 meter transceiver. According to Sant Andrea, "The IC-7200 is a compact, easy-to-operate HF and 6 meter transceiver that offers many features for voice, CW and digital mode operating. Rugged, water-resistant packaging makes it attractive for portable and emergency
stations." Check out the review on the Micro-Node International IRLP/EchoLink node, also in the June issue.

Of course, there are the usual columns you expect in the June QST: Hints
& Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Hamspeak and more. This month also features Amateur Radio World and the ARRL VEC Volunteer Examiner Honor Roll. Look for your June issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> ARRL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE HONORS PIOS

When the ARRL Public Relations Committee, led by Bill Morine, N2COP, met
in April 2009, they discussed the recognizing those ARRL Public Information Officers (PIO) and Public Information Coordinators (PIC) whose actions are exemplary. From that meeting, The PIO Excellence Award
came into being. This award is given when the committee believes an ARRL
PIO has gone above and beyond in ensuring that the role of Amateur Radio
is explained to media and the public, especially in unanticipated situations in the field.

"While not of the same level as other PIO awards such as the Leonard or McGan Awards," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts,
W1AGP, "these recognitions are a way to say 'thank you' to people who put in the extra effort to make us all look good in a bad situation."

Public Information Officer Joe Gadus, KD5KTX, of Porter, Texas, was commended for taking the lead to ensure that the media knew about the efforts of ARES and local amateurs who helped at Points of Distribution (PODs) in the Houston area following Hurricane Ike last year <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/09/16/10338/?nc=1>. Hams in Harris County supported at least six PODs who provided communications between the National Guard units at the PODs and the Harris County Office of Emergency Management to coordinate the delivery and resupply

of food, water and MREs (meals ready to eat) to the victims of Hurricane
Ike. Most of the participating amateurs were also victims of the storm],
having suffered property losses and power outages.

ARRL Santa Clara Valley Section Public Information Coordinator Bill Moffitt, AE6GS, of San Jose, California, was recognized for reporting to
the Emergency Operations Center in Santa Cruz <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/18/10166/>. While there, he worked with the Santa Cruz County PIO to clarify the role of Amateur Radio. Volunteers from Santa Cruz ARES provided a vital layer of communications to support firefighters, law enforcement, Red Cross and even animal control during the Martin fire in the hills above Santa Cruz
over Father's Day weekend in 2008. Pitts said that the committee took into account that Moffitt took time away from his job to handle this situation.

Public Information Officer Steve Sanders, KE7JSS, of Hillsboro, Oregon, was praised for taking the lead to ensure that media in the Pacific Northwest knew about the vital role Amateur Radio played in supplying emergency communications
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/12/05/100/>. After other forms of
communications were compromised in December 2007 by fierce storms, flooding and mudslides ravaged the area and shut down roads and highways, including Interstate 5. Other infrastructure, such as telephone lines and electricity, were obliterated.

Pitts said that due to the actions of these amateurs, many media outlets
ran stories about the response of Amateur Radio operators in each situation. "The role of the PIO is far more than club newsletters, or even press releases. Being at the right place at the right time, presenting our story to the media, is critical to the future of Amateur Radio. These three hams went above and beyond to ensure that our story was told in a way that was easy to understand in a critical situation."

==> EXPLORE RADIO SCOUTING AT THE 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Of the many exciting displays in the ARRL EXPO <http://www.arrl.org/expo> at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org/>, the Scout Radio Outpost is eagerly anticipated by youth and adults alike. According to Brian Walker, K9BKW, Scout Leaders will again be reaching out to ham radio operators to encourage them to provide Amateur Radio opportunities to Boy Scouts back in their home towns. Walker and a team of Scouters will host the Outpost, answering questions and provide amateurs with resources about Radio Scouting.

"Ham Radio has such a huge impact on the quality of a Scouting program. >From bringing Scouts around the world together, to providing event communications and safety, to building a Scout's foundation to become America's future technicians, engineers and scientists. You, the local elmer willing to help out, can really make a difference by getting involved with your local Scout organizations," said Walker, an Eagle Scout, past Scoutmaster, District Commissioner and currently Venturing Crew 272 Advisor (WB9SA).

At the Outpost, amateurs can learn how to teach the Radio merit badge <http://www.scouting.org/boyscouts/advancementandawards/meritbadges/mb-R
ADO.aspx> and help their local Scouts participate in Scouting's largest annual event, the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) <http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/>. "Each October, more than half a million Scouts around the world talk to each other via Amateur Radio," Walker said. "We will show hams Tips on how they can let Scouts in their
hometowns participate in this exciting on-the-air event."

Matthew Murphy, KC8BEW, of BSA's Muskingum Valley Council said that hams
visiting the Outpost can also learn about a new program being developed for 2010's 100th birthday of the Boy Scouts of America: "Scout Camps on the Air (SCOTA) promises to be a fun way for hams to help encourage Amateur Radio operations at Scout camps and other large Scouting events.
Murphy is coordinating the SCOTA program <http://kc8bew.net/scota.html>.

Walker said that last year's Radio Scouting booth was well received. "Scouts and Scouters from around the world stopped by to share experiences and exchange ideas," he said. "Ham Scouters involved in the 2008 effort are excited to be sharing space with the ARRL and are hoping
to make this year's activity an even greater success. So stop by the ARRL display area and visit the Scout Radio outpost to learn how you can
help interested Scouts to become the next generation of hams."

==>NATIONAL HUURICANE CENTER's WX4NHC SETS ON-THE-AIR STATION TEST

The annual WX4NHC On-the-Air Station Test from the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami will take place Saturday, May 30, from 1300-2100 UTC. "The purpose of this annual Station Test is to test all of our radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. This is not a contest or simulated hurricane exercise. New equipment and software will be tested, and we will also conduct some operator training," said WX4NHC Assistant Amateur Radio Volunteer Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R.

Ripoll said that WX4NHC also will be testing new computers and software,

as well as conducting operator training. "NHC Director Bill Read, KB5FYA, will be at WX4NHC, making contacts," he said. WX4NHC will be on the air on HF, VHF and UHF, plus 2 and 30 meter APRS. Suggested SSB frequencies are 3.950, 7.268, 14.325, 21.325 and 28.525 MHz, +/-QRM; WX4NHC reports that they will mostly be on 14.325 MHz and will make announcements when they change frequencies. WX4NHC also will be on the VoIP Hurricane Net 1700-1900 UTC (IRLP node 9219/EchoLink WX-TALK Conference) and on South Florida area VHF/UHF repeaters and simplex; APRS and e-mail will also be monitored.

Stations working WX4NHC exchange call sign, signal report, location and name plus a brief weather report, such as "sunny," "rain" or "cloudy." Non-hams may submit their actual weather using the On-Line Hurricane Report Form. QSL to WD4R and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
Do not send cards to the NHC. Due to security measures, no visitors will
be allowed at NHC during the test.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The new leaves laugh in the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: After weeks of little or no sunspots, it is nice to have something to report. Following multiple false starts, quick-fading spots and knots of
magnetic activity which never progressed into actual darkened sunspots, new sunspot group 1017 emerged on Wednesday, May 13. The daily sunspot number was 12, and the next day the size of the group approximately doubled, raising the sunspot number to 18. This is a Cycle 24 sunspot group. Sunspot numbers for May 7 through 13 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 12 with a mean of 1.7. 10.7 cm flux was 69.5, 70.8, 72.3, 71.8, 71.9, 73.9, and 73.8 with a mean of 72. Estimated planetary A indices were 10,
13, 6, 4, 4, 2 and 3 with a mean of 6. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 7, 12, 6, 3, 2, 0 and 2 with a mean of 4.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page
<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought
to you by Sara Teasdale's "May"
<http://www.poetry.com/LovePoems/lovepoem.asp?id=206>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the Feld Hell Sprint is on May 16. The EU PSK DX Contest, His Majesty King of Spain Contest (CW) and the Manchester Mineira All America CW Contest are May 16-17. The Run for the

Bacon QRP Contest is May 18 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint and QRP Minimal Art Session are May 21. Next week is the NCCC Sprint on May 22. The MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint is May 25-May 26 and the SKCC Sprint is May 27. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the
ARRL Special Event Station Web page
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, May 24, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, June 5, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and
Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Analog Electronics,
and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct
communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for
their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions,
reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is
no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page
<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* No ARRL Audio News on May 15: Due to staff attendance at the ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention, there will be no ARRL Audio News on May 15. ARRL Audio News will resume regular distribution on May 22.

* Former Kentucky Section Manager Dave Vest, KZ4G (SK): Former Kentucky Section Manager Dave Vest, KZ4G, of Ashland, passed away April 27, 2009.
He was 75. Vest served as Section Communications Manager/Section Manager
from April 1981-March 1983. He also served as the first ARRL Section Traffic Manager in Kentucky prior to serving as Section Manager.

According to current Kentucky Section Manager Jim Brooks, KY4Z, Vest supported numerous Amateur Radio groups in the Kentucky-Virginia-West Virginia area. He was a past president of the River Cities Amateur Radio
Association and the Tri-State Amateur Radio Association and a founding member of the Bluegrass Chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. "Dave promoted Amateur Radio throughout his life and elmered countless newcomers into the hobby," Brooks said.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast"
compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!): letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.

(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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210. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1657 - May 15 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-18 14:54:23 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <20090518145205.AD736306AA@mailbackend.panix.com>
Source record: 2020
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1657 - May 15 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Ladies and gentlemen here's Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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The great thing about Amateur Radio is that your level of involvement can be anything you choose- you can be an avid DX'er or just a casual repeater user. Run your fingers to the bone on packet or RTTY, be heavily involved with emergency work, or not even get on the air for a while. The hobby will still be there.

That's why we, the volunteer staff at Amateur Radio Newsline, love what we do- it's ever changing, ever evolving. Unfortunately, the realities of bringing you these weekly newscasts don't change that much.

We've done our best to try to shave down the fixed expenses- what it costs for internet service, how we can best use a combination of land- and wireless-based phone services, to hold these to a minimum. We've even done away with tape in our newsgathering and editing- everything's software and solid-state.

My backup solution to try would be to instruct our Producer, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, to only report on the news that automatically comes into our news bureau, as other news services do. But that defeats why it is that so many of you tell us that you love our service- that we bring you the voices of the newsmakers, and those special stories that just don't get reported. That's what makes us unique in Amateur Radio reporting.

Please help us keep these newscasts on the air, doing what we do best. You can contribute via PayPal on our website, arnewsline.org, or at our Arcadia California address given at the end of the newscast. We thank you for your support.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and now on to the news.

--

Thank you Andy. That ends the closed circuit advisory with Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1657 with a release date of Friday, May 15th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams take a break from the rotten economy and head to Hamvention 2009, a NASA research panel says that Solar

Cycle 24 will be low on sunspots, a ham will be the first ever European commander of the International Space Station and find out how to float your tower problems away on this Hamvention weekend Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1657 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

BREAKING NEWS: HAMVENTION(r) 2009 IS HERE

Motion pictures have the Oscars. Broadway has its Tony awards and Television its Emmys. And for ham radio the big event is Dayton:

--

W8CI: "Its an absolutely fantastic event. It has so many fleas market spaces that it would take you an entire day to go through everything in the Flea Market. And the entire six building complex is completely filled with inside exhibits. We have forums based on all the different types of amateur radio and what a great place to get eyeball to eyeball with people you have not seen all year. So it's a pretty exciting event for amateur radio."

--

That's spokesman Michael Kalter, W8CI, who recently was interviewed by Hap Holly, KC9RP, of RAIN regarding what to expect at this years Dayton Hamvention. And as the doors of the Hara Arena open on Friday, May 15th, upward of 25,000 hams from around the world are expected to be there for what's become known as the Show of Shows in amateur radio. And why not. This year Dayton offers just about everything, especially if only you are a ham who is willing to dream digital. Again, Michael Kalter, W8CI:

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W8CI: "Our theme is DREAM. That stands for 'Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More.' So the focus this year in our forums will be more on digital forms of communications.

"We are excited about that. We think that part of amateur radio is continuing to grow and become more interesting. We have a lot of people within the amateur radio community who are involved in it."

--

And how is the nations faltering economy affecting ham radio? Kalter says that the forces that have caused banks to fail and at least one auto maker to go under have not affected pre opening sales. In fact, 2009 looks like it could beat out 2008:

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W8CI: "This year we have more inside exhibitors and Flea Market exhibitors signed up than we did last year. Our ticket sales are stronger than they were last year and that's always a concern, especially when you hear all the doom and gloom about the economy. But we are truly pleased that people are going to come and we want to put on a great show for them."

--

Hamvention 2009 closes on Sunday, May 17th. We will have a complete roundup of all the highlights on next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARNewsline(tm) with audio supplied by RAIN)

**

FUTURE PROPAGATION: EXPERT PANEL EXPECTS WEAK SOLAR CYCLE 24

An international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center anticipates that a new active period of solar storms reaching Earth will be the weakest since 1928 and its peak is still four years away. This, after a very slow start to Solar Cycle 24 last December.

According to a report posted to the VHF Reflector, the panel predicts Cycle 24 will peak in May of 2013 with a daily sunspot number of only 90. If this forecast proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest since number 16, which peaked at 78 daily sunspots in 1928. It will also be the ninth weakest since the 1750s, when counting the numbered cycles began.

But that's not all. The panel also believes that the lowest sunspot number between cycles occurred in December 2008. It says that period marked the end of Cycle 23 and the start of Cycle 24. If the prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will have been the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum.

The most common measure of a solar cycle's intensity is the number of Earth-sized blotches on the suns surface. These are the so-called sunspots and they mark areas of heightened magnetic activity. The more sunspots there are, the more likely it is that solar storms will occur.

The persistence of a quiet sun has since led the panel to a consensus that the next cycle will be "moderately weak." As a rule of thumb, fewer sunspots mean a lot less DX for hams to work. NASA funds the prediction panel. (VHF Reflector via K0SQ)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: EUROPEAN HAM TO BECOME ISS COMMANDER

Frank De Winne, ON1DWN, is set to become the first European Space Agency astronaut to oversee the International Space Station.

De Winne is currently at Russia's cosmonaut training center outside of Moscow. He will leave there later this week and fly to neighboring Kazakhstan, where a Soyuz rocket is being prepared to carry him, Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Robert Thirsk, VA3CSA, to the orbiting space outpost. That launch is currently scheduled for May 27 .

The arrival of these three space adventurers which will bring the total number of crew on the I-S-S to six for the first time. For the first four months De Winne, who is from Belgium, will be a Flight Engineer as a member of the Expedition 20 Crew. With the next crew rotation ON1DWN will take over as Commander of Expedition 21 and will serve in that position until his return to Earth in November. This will mark the first time that someone other than a Russian or an American has held that post. More is on-line at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8037431.stm and at http://www.southgatearc.org/news/november2008/frank_de_winne.htm (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Hamvention repeater, W8BI, serving Dayton, Ohio.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCAST BUST IN WYOMING

An unlicensed broadcaster in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is off the air. This after the FCC issues an order for it to cease and desist operation or face prosecution that could put its operator behind prison bars. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has more:

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Michael Stugelmayer said agents from the Denver FCC Enforcement Bureau ordered him to turn off his 95.5 MHz FM signal because it was in violation of the agencies rules. Federal agents, acting on an anonymous tip, issued Stugelmayer a "Notice of Violation" for broadcasting without a license. It also said that it took the action because Stugelmayer transmitter was emitting spurious signals that could present a safety hazard to the operation of aircraft in the area.

Stugelmayer told a local newspaper that he started broadcasting in 2003 after growing tired of listening to commercial radio while cruising downtown Cheyenne. He still could face a fine up to $100,000 and spend a year in jail for the violation. The FCC might also place a set-aside on his ham radio license when it comes time to renew in a few weeks on May 26th.

Stugelmayer told the newspaper that the buildings owner gave him permission to erect a waterproof antenna on the rooftop and set up his gear inside an unfinished attic space. If this proves true, then that owner could also face charges for aiding an unlicensed station to operate from his premises.

--

As previously reported, assessing fines from property owners who make space available for unlicensed transmitters is another enforcement tool in the FCC's growing arsenal. This, to take unlicensed broadcasters off the air and make it harder for them ever to return. (Billings Gazette, FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC ADMITS VANITY CALL MISTAKE AND REASSIGNS W9CQ CALL

The FCC has modified the amateur service club station license for the QRQ CW and Contest Group by changing the call sign from W9CQ to KC9MWH and the call of the Falls Amateur Radio Club from K9RHH to W9CQ. This as the agency admits that it made a mistake in the way the call was assigned under the vanity call program. Sound confusing? Here's the back story.

According to an FCC news release when a call sign associated with an amateur service station license that expires, is canceled due to the licensee's death, or is surrendered, revoked, set aside, or voided, is not available to the vanity call sign system for reassignment to another amateur station for two years. Certain licensees, including close relatives of a deceased former holder of the call sign and club station trustees acting with the written consent of such a relative, are exempt from the two-year waiting period.

Paul Kent,W9CQ, died on January 1, 2006, so the call sign was due to become available to the vanity call sign system on January 2, 2008. The application of Robert C. Moldenhauer for call sign W9CQ was granted in 2007 because Moldenhauer stated that he was Kent's in-law. Later that year, the Commission granted an application from Moldenhauer to modify his license to show a different call sign. This resulted in his license for call sign W9CQ being surrendered and canceled. Moldenhauer also informed the Commission's Enforcement Bureau that he had surrendered call sign W9CQ after realizing that he was related to a different Paul Kent and therefore was not eligible for the call sign prior to the end of the two-year waiting period.

Falls, now known as the Wisconsin Amateur Radio Club filed an application for W9CQ on January 2, 2008. It was dismissed by the FCC on the grounds that the call sign was not available because it was less than two years since Moldenhauer had surrendered it. Falls filed a petition for reconsideration, arguing that the call sign should have been made available to the vanity call sign system on January 2, 2008 because Moldenhauer had not been eligible to hold it in the first place.

While the petition was pending, the QRQ group submitted its application to modify its license by changing the call sign from KC9MWH to W9CQ. That action was granted on June 10, 2008 and Falls filed an appeal.

Now after weighing all of the information and evidence before it, the FCC has concluded that it made a mistake in assigning W9CQ to the QRQ CW and Contest Group. The agency says that had the procedures of the vanity call sign system been followed, W9CQ would not have been available when QRQ submitted its application. As such the FCC says that it would be in the public interest to modify the QRQ's amateur station club license by replacing call sign W9CQ with its prior KC9MWH call. It also says that the Falls application should be granted, and call sign W9CQ assigned to it. The FCC adds that it regrets any inconvenience that this error has caused the QRQ CW and Contest Group. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: SUPREME COURT SIDES WITH FCC IN CBS WARDROBE MALFUNCTION CASE

The U.S. Supreme Court has ordered a federal appeals court to re-examine its ruling in favor of CBS Corporation in a legal fight over entertainer Janet Jackson's so-called on the air wardrobe malfunction. This, with an eye at having the lower court re-institute a fine against the broadcast entity.

On Monday, May 4th the high court on directed the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia to consider reinstating the $550,000 fine that the Federal Communications Commission imposed on CBS. This over Jackson's breast-baring performance at the 2004 Super Bowl football championship.

Last year, the appeals court threw out the fine against CBS, saying the FCC strayed from its long-held approach of applying identical standards to words and images when reviewing complaints of indecency. The FCC appealed that decision to the Supreme Court.

The order follows the high courts earlier that narrowly upheld the FCC's policy threatening fines against even one-time uses of curse words during live broadcasts. (Published news reports)

**

RESCUE COMMUNICATIONS: WHITE HOUSE TO JOIN SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

The White House is going broadband and joining the popular social network sites of Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. This, as a part of its campaign to obtain more insight from the citizenry on matters of national urgency like the current swine flu outbreak.

A spokesman says that access to these sites will be added the features to its main Web page, whitehouse.gov. Initially, the materials placid on the social networking sites will contain information about combating swine flu, but they will be updated with information on other topics as

time goes by.

White House New Media Director Macon Phillips explained that the administration will not be able to reply individually to those who send messages via Facebook, MySpace or Twitter. However, people who join these groups can speak to one another, and the White House staff can see what they're saying. (RW)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ.COM BANS INTERNET TROLLS

The giant QRZ.COM ham radio website has banned Internet trolls from its cyberspace location.

According to Wikipedia.com, an Internet troll, or simply a troll is someone who posts controversial, inflammatory, irrelevant or off-topic messages in an online community. This, with the primary intent of provoking other users into an emotional response or to generally disrupt normal on-topic discussion.

According to QRZ owner Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, until now the site has dealt with trolling on a case-by-case basis. However Lloyd says that it has become apparent that a concrete policy statement is needed. Therefore, effective immediately, QRZ's policy on trolling will be to ban first time offenders for 90 days, and repeat offenders permanently.

Lloyd notes that an policy of intolerance towards trolling is common in major online communities like MySpace, and others. He then asks rhetorically as to why QRZ should be any different? In his front pager posting he answers by saying that it wont be any different on QRZ. He also advises readers to prepare to say goodbye to a few of what he terms as the wise-guys who have contributed nothing but misery and discord to an otherwise enjoyable web experience. (AA7BQ via QRZ.COM)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: TWO FROM UP NORTH

Some names in the news from up North. First is Derek Hay, VE4HAY, who has been appointed as Radio Amateurs of Canada's Midwest Region Director. This, to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of former director Devon Racicot, VE5DWR.

According to RAC President Bob Cooke, VE3BDB, Hay brings a wealth of experience to the directors seat. He will serve in the position until a formal election can be conducted in the region.

Also from Radio Amateurs of Canada President is the announcement that Jim Fisher, VE1JF, had been appointed as Chairman of the Low, Medium and High Frequency Band Planning Committee. Fisher takes over from Bob Nash, VE3KZ, who resigned after holding the position for the last several years. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ZS2ACP AND ZS6NK HONORED FOR METEOR SCATTER WORK

Andre Botes, ZS2ACP and Paul Smit, ZS6NK, have been given the prestigious Icom Excellence Award for their work on VHF meteor scatter. The pair is credited with holding the first 4 meter Meteor Scatter contact made outside of Europe as well as setting the meteor scatter record and distance record in South Africa. This is the premier award of the South African Radio League. It 2009 recipients were announced at the society's recently held annual general meeting. (Southgate)

**

RADIO HONORS: ATLANTA HAMFEST MEMORIAL TO HONOR MEMORY W4RU

And a special memorial service celebrating the life of Sandy Donahue, W4RU, will be held in conjunction with the Atlanta Hamfest on Saturday, June 6th.

As reported last week, the 63 year old Donahue who served as ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director since 2002 passed away in his sleep early on May 4th. He was buried on May 9th in Midland City, Alabama not far from his adopted hometown of Dolthan.

One of the best liked and most respected hams in our lifetime, Donahue was best known for his lifelong commitment to public service through ham radio and promoting the service to anyone who would show even the slightest interest. A ham since he was 15, he also supported many ham radio youth related activities including serving as an unofficial liaison and greater for the Newsline sponsored Young Ham of the Year Award.

W4RU spent most of his life in Atlanta, Georgia, before retiring to Dolthan, Alabama. His many lifelong friends in the Atlanta area wanted their own chance to say a final farewell to him.

For additional information and directions to the memorial and the hamfest please contact Jeff Beals, WA4AW. His e-mail is wa4aw (at) arrl (dot) net. (WA4AW)

**

BREAK 2

Celebrating Hamvention 2009, from the United States of America we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: INSTANT CHARGE BATTERY

Well, you wont find it at Dayton, at least not yet but a new form of battery is being developed with what's being called instant charging. Jeff Clark, K8JAC, reports:

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Materials researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have announced that they have developed a new form of LiON battery. One could discharge and recharge in seconds rather than hours.

Gerbrand Ceder is a Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT. Along with his graduate student he discovered a way to build LiON batteries with a performance level more like that of Ultra Capacitors. These are caps that store less energy but can store and release it very quickly.

If commercialized, this new breed of LiON battery would allow future hybrid cars to rapidly recharge. It could also lead to improvements in portable two way radio as well as new consumer and industrial products.

--

It will be some time before a battery like this is available commercially. (Science Daily)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: MARYLAND FM ASSN MEMORIAL DAY HAMFEST

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the Maryland F.M. Association will be holding its annual Memorial Day Hamfest on Sunday, May 24th. The venue is the Howard County Fairgrounds, in West Friendship, Maryland from 8am to 1pm with setup beginning at 6am. All times are local Eastern U-S. More is on-line at www.marylandfm.org (WA3MNN)

**

WORLDBEAT: UK HAM TO LEAD DISCUSSION OF 500 kHz PROPOSAL AT ARC 2011

In news from around the world, the Radio Society of Great Britain's President, Colin Thomas, G3PSM, will lead key discussions at the 2011 World Radio Conference. Thomas has been appointed C-E-P-T Lead Coordinator for the 500kHz proposal, which is Agenda Item 1.23, at the conference. His appointment is rather unusual in that agenda item coordinators are normally selected from regulatory agencies or governing administrations. (GB2RS)

**

WORLDBEAT: INDIA SEEKS 40 METER EXTENSION AND PERMANENT FREQS ON 30 AND 6

The Amateur Radio Society of India, on behalf of all of that nations hams has made a formal application to India's Department of Telecommunications for the new 40 Meter band segment to be allocated to

the amateur community. Requests have also been made for permanent allocation of frequencies in the 6 meter and 30 meter bands. These spectrum parcels were previously given to India's ham community on a short term basis, but later withdrawn.

**

WORLDBEAT: MELBOURNE AND PERTH GO DULL TIME DAB+

Commercial radio stations in Melbourne made history on Monday, May 11th. That's when they begin broadcasting the first permanent DAB+ digital radio services on the east coast of Australia.

Joan Warner is the chief executive officer of Commercial Radio Australia the industry body that has driven the move to digital radio. He is quoted as saying that the 11th was another milestone for the industry in Australia following the switch on of DAB+ digital radio in Perth about two weeks ago.

(CRA, WIA)

**

DX

In DX, word that DM2BBN, will be living in Ethiopia for the next years and is operational on 80 through 6 with the exception of 160 or 40 meters. QSL direct to Dr. Peter Haferkorn, PO Box 150194, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

And the United Kingdom's Barry Amateur Radio Society will be active as GB-100-BP from Sully, Wales on until May 31st. The special callsign celebrates 100 years of British Petroleum. QSL via GW0ANA.

YS1G will be on the air from El Salvador through May 23rd operating mainly on CW. QSL via G3TXF. The log entries will be electronically uploaded to Logbook to the World.

5H1HP and 5H1MS will be active from Zanzibar Island from May 16th to June 2nd. The pair will operate 2 meter EME and meteor scatter with some additional activity on the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL this operation via DL2NUD and DL9MS respectively.

OT4R, is going to spend his vacation operating portable HI7 from the Dominican Republic. He will be there through May 30th on 20, 15 and 10 meters with a preference for 14 point 300 MHz. QSL as directed by the operator

Lastly, listen out for ZL1CT who will be operating as ZK2V from Niue Island through June 20th. Activity will be mainly on the 80, 40, 20 and 15 meter bands using CW and SSB. There may be some WARC band and RTTY activity as well. QSL via N3SL

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: FLOAT IT AWAY

And finally this week, the story of a tower that needed a new home but no way to get it there. Well no way until a couple of hams came along. Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the rest of the story:

--

An amateur radio tower stood in the backyard of a suburban home long after the resident radio amateur became a silent key. His widow wanted it removed but with house extensions over the years it seemed to be a very expensive proposition indeed.

It could lifted out by a crane that would require the cutting of power lines, permits, insurance and other hassles, or maybe a helicopter was an option. Either way it was going to be far too costly.

Along come a couple of radio amateurs who used their ingenuity to solve the problem. The tower was put on the ground, fitted with brackets on to which were mounted empty 44-gallon drums. Through an opening in the rear fence and then slid into a creek.

Just like Davie Crockett and Daniel Boone the radio amateurs paddled the floating tower downstream to a location accessible by vehicle and loaded it onto a trailer. A win-in situation for the widow who was pleased to see the tower gone and for a ham who acquired it for transplanting in a new location.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

--

The bottom line to all of this? That's simple. When you have a problem that seems insurmountable, simply call on a ham. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that the nominating period for the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Complete details are on our website at www.arnewsline.org Just scroll down to the words "2009 YHOTY Nominations Now Open" and click for more information and an official nominating form.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk from Hamvention 2009, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, saying 73 and we thank you for

listening.

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211. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1658 - May 22 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-22 17:58:43 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090522104824.01810318@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2021
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1658 - May 22 2009

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READERS OF TEXT VERSION ONLY - PLEASE NOTE

As you should be aware, Amateur Radio Newsline is prepared for the "spoken" rather than the "written / printed" word. Because of our on-scene coverage of the 2009 Dayton Hamvention, this weeks newscast is very audio intensive. From experience we know that there is no way that a literal transcript of the words of those we have interviewed can bring to you the emotion in their voices and that of their presentations. (The only direct quotes are those of our reporters and FCC officials on regulatory issues.)

For that reason, we are providing only one-line summaries of what many speakers at Hamvention 2009 had to offer. Instead of just reading this weeks newscast, we urge you to go to our website at www.arnewsline.org, download the mp3 file, sit back and enjoy a vicarious trip to the concluded 2009 Dayton Hamvention. We believe that it will be a far more enjoyable experience than merely scanning across printed words.

Thank you, ARNewsline, Inc.

--

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1658 with a release date of Friday, May 22nd, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Dayton calls and thousands enjoy the ham holiday weekend. Also, the FCC says the price of a vanity call has to go up, the WB6X tower case in California has a happy ending, a pro amateur radio antenna measure proceeds in Arizona and we all get to meet Laura Smith, the new ham radio rules enforcer at the FCC. All this on an extended four section Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1658 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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Sound: (Gary Johnston, KI4LA, talks about the opening of Hamvention and the bargains he has already found.)

--

That's Gary Johnston, KI4LA, who is not only the ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director but also one of thousands of hams from around the world elated at being at Hamvention 2009 as the doors opened at the Hara Arena on Friday, May 15th. And in a reversal from what's usually the case, just about every seasoned observer that we got the chance to interview believed that Hamvention Friday was the best opening day ever and also the best business day of the three day ham radio holiday weekend. Chip Margelli, K7JA of Heil Sound is a longtime attendee at Dayton. We caught up with Chip midday through opening day:

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Sound: (Chip Margelli, K7JA, describes opening day at the Heil Sound booth.)

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A similar view was given us by Joe Schroeder, W9JUV. Joe, now with Radio Bookstore is the former editor of the old H-R Report and has seen and reported on many ham radio shows. We spoke to him just before closing of the exhibit hall on Saturday afternoon:

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Sound: (Joe Schroeder, W9JUV, talks about Friday vs Saturday traffic at the Radio Bookstore booth.)

--

Its no secret that many hams travel to Dayton to see what the big three manufacturers of ham radio gear will be offering for sale and nobody was disappointed. We spoke with representatives of Icom, Kenwood and Vertex Standard Yaesu and let each one extol a bit about their latest goodies:

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Sound: (Representatives of Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu / Vertex Standard describe the gear that they are featuring this year.)

--

Icom, Kenwood, Vertex Standard Yaesu seemed to have good foot traffic. The same can be said for Ten-Tec and Elecraft which appeared to always have a crowd of people playing with radios and keeping the company representatives peppered with questions. Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil sound says that business in audio alley was also quite brisk:

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Sound: (Bob Heil, K9EID, talks about business at his booth.)

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This years Hamvention also served as the 2009 ARRL National Convention and it also reported good foot traffic through its Expo area. Great

Lakes Division Vice Director Gary Johnson, KI4LA tells us what the League had in place to welcome members and non-members alike:

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Sound: (Gary Johnston, KI4LA, describes ARRL Expo area.)

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The ARRL will likely be happy to know that the pundits and bloggers are saying that the League did a very good job with its Expo area this year.

As to the outdoor flea market? What can you say. It's a world unto itself where with a little work and a lot of walking an attendee can find just about everything under the sun and then some. One only had to stand in front of the Hara Arena by and watch the gate to the Flea Market area to get an idea of what people were buying. One convention go'er seemed to be very happy dragging out a rather old Hallicrafters SX-28 receiver made in the 1930's followed by a guy holing what appeared to be a potted plant. Amateur Radio Newsline's Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, was able to stroll through the Flea Market and has some thoughts:

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Feinberg: "They lucked out on the weather. With only very brief periods of showers on Friday and Saturday mornings the flea-marketeers were out in style.

"The outside vendors are people who usually bring their own merchandise. There's the '- get this stuff out of the closet and don't come back with it' group. Then there are the flea-market gypsies who you find at every swap-meet with neat displays of radio shack needed items.

"And there are the commercial vendors. Of course Mendelson's was the biggest as usual."

"Of course there are the club tables with groups of hams who pool their items on a group table. The pickings were all out there and you just had to go and find what you wanted.

"The crowds were a little bit thinner this year, but it was (still) an interesting meander."

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And for those not aware, Henry Feinberg is a bit of an expert on the Dayton Hamvention Flea Market. Back in 1982 he was commissioned by Hollywood producer Steven Spielberg to design the umbrella communicator used in the movie E T The Extraterrestrial. Henry found many of the parts used in that device in the Hamvention Flea Market, so you might say that Dayton helped E-T to phone home.

We will have more Hamvention related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO LAW: FCC WANTS VANITY CALL FEE INCREASE

Turning to other news, the cost of getting a vanity callsign will likely be going up. This as the FCC releases a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order in MD Docket 08-65 on May 14th. It seeks to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs.

Currently, a vanity call sign costs $12.30 and is good for 10 years. The new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will be $13.40 for 10 years. That' s an increase of $1.10 for the license period. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with the vanity call sign program. (ARRL)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NEW LOW FREQUENCY ALLOCATION IN JAPAN

Meantime, across the Pacific word that amateurs in Japan have been given access to a 3.1 kHz wide band segment between 135.7 and 137.8 kHz. Only CW or narrow bandwidth data transmission less than 100Hz may be used in the new band. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W7CSK repeater serving Everett, Washington.

(5 sec pause here)

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HAMVENTION 2009 - THE FCC FORUM AND AN INTRODUCTION TO LAURA SMITH

Back to news from Hamvention 2009, the FCC made news at its forum. This as FCC rules man Bill Cross, W3TN, of the Wireless Mobility Division and the new Special Counsel enforcing Amateur Radio rules, Laura Smith, fielded some rather interesting questions. These ranged from the repeater owners responsibility of keeping unruly hams off of their systems to the legality of transmitting music on the ham radio bands as digital files.

Dealing with the issue of purging unwanted users from a repeater where the user won't obey the licensee's rules, Bill Cross says its all a matter of the licensee adhering to the Commissions regulations pertaining to repeater operation that's first and foremost:

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Cross: "When the repeater rules were written many years ago, one of the things the Commission was asked to do was to specifically put in the rules authority to limit stations to using the repeater. And, in Section 97.205 where we have the rules on repeaters it says limiting the repeater to certain users is allowed.

"That certainly is a way that you can control a repeater. And it doesn't matter what the station is, the licensee is responsible for it.

"If it's a club trustee or an individual that has (holds) the license on the repeater, we certainly can contact them because of what's going on with one of the users. We can also contact the user. But you do have an absolute obligation to control that machine, and if it means limiting the use to certain users, the Commission's rules provide for that. And I'm not particularly surprised when someone (a user) gets a notice (from a repeater licensee) that says '-we don't want you to use the machine anymore."

--

Cross also reiterated what many of his predecessors have said in the past. That being no repeater license holder is under any obligation to repeat user stations that he does not wish to retransmit:

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Cross: "One of the common misunderstandings is that amateur radio repeaters are not common carrier systems. There is no duty to serve on a non-discriminatory basis.

"If you want to limit it (access to a repeater) to people in a DX club, that's fine. If you want to limit it rush hour messages that are going to be traffic related or mobiles get priority, that's fine.

"You put the repeater up. Its yours to run and (its) your obligation to control it and limiting it is allowed."

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As to the question on whether or not music in data format can be transmitted on the ham bands, well the question was long but Laura Smith's answer was short:

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Questioner: "We have just been talking about what's allowed-does that mean for example that it is OK and that the FCC would not hinder say MP3 music traffic over a repeater. The digital world opens up a whole new world. It's a hornets nest in terms of what can you do or what can you not do.

"I would argue that the MP3 file as transmitted across a repeater is not music. Its is simply bits that when sequenced properly turn into music."

Smith: "We'll let you be the test case." (Laughter from audience.)

Questioner: "I'm frequently the test case."

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And speaking about Laura Smith, to say that she has been well received by the ham radio community might be the understatement of Hamvention 2009. Even though she's not a licensed amateur the crowd in meeting room 2 took to her as if she not only already held an Extra class license but also had just completed DXCC. One of the reasons may have been her opening hear heart about who she was and about the values of life in which she believes:

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Laura Smith tells story about her dad, as a police officer having to arrest her then teenage uncle for prank.

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The general consensus among those who attended the FCC forum was that Laura Smith is more than an asset to the FCC. More important is that she is a truly welcome addition to the amateur radio community even if she's not yet a ham.

The FCC forum ran just a bit over an hour and many topics were covered. Hap Holly, KC9RP, will be airing excerpts from the FCC forum for the next several weeks on his RAIN Report. Its on-line at www.therainreport.com and by phone at 773-358-7845. (ARNewsline(tm))

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RADIO LAW: A BIG WIN IN PALMDALE CA

Some good news in the ham radio legal arena. This with word that the court decision in the long-running Alec Zubarau, WB6X, tower case is now final. This, after the City of Palmdale, California, allowed the appeal period to expire without challenging the ruling. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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A judge hearing the case ordered the city to reinstate an improperly revoked building permit for a crank-up tower that had been issued to WB6X. Zubarau, who was represented by ARRL Volunteer Counsel Leonard Shaffer, WA6QHD, may now request a permit for an antenna to go on the tower.

Notable in the ruling is the court's description of Palmdale's actions as an abuse of discretion by the City Council. It says that the city's decision to eliminate the tower directly violates the express requirements of California's PRB-1 equivalent statute. It also said that WB6X neighbors' various unsubstantiated complaints do not constitute substantial evidence.

And in a related item, local hams in the Palmdale area have also noted that, since the WB6X legal victory, city personnel have made no further

mention of the harsh, controversial proposed antenna ordinance amendment that the city threatened to impose late last year. One that would have effectively outlawed ham radio within that city.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Most believe that if Palmdale had proceeded that such a law would have been ruled illegal and in violation of both state law and PRB-1 and likely would have cost the city millions of dollars in taxpayer revenues to fight in court. (SW Div. Communicator, others)

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RADIO LAW: ARIZONA PRB-1 LIKE MEASURE PASSES HOUSE VOTE

Meantime, in neighboring Arizona, ARRL Section Manager Tom Fagan, K7DF, reports that Assembly Bill 2514 has passed that states lower house after a procedural final vote and is on its way to the state senate. Unlike other PRB-1 equivalent measures signed into law in 26 other states, this one includes limited preemption of private deed restrictions commonly known as Conditions, Covenants and Restrictions or CC&R's.

Opposition to the measure is already mounting. As expected it is primarily from a coalition of home owners' associations and their lobbyists. Thankfully, the Arizona ham community has a long and very well documented record of public service through ARES, RACES and other organizations to bolster its argument for passage of the bill

It should be noted that a similar bill has made it this far in each of the past several years, only to be killed in a senate committee. But the chairmanship of that committee has changed hands, so it is uncertain how it will fare this year. (SW Div Communicator)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAMVENTION 2009: THE HAM RADIO TOWN MEETING

Back to our coverage of Hamvention 2009, one of the most welcomed visitors this year was space adventurer and entrepreneur Richard Garriott, W6KWQ. Richard is the son of Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL,

who back in the early 1980's was the first ham radio operator to come on the air from Earth orbit. Richard stopped by the Newsline sponsored Ham Radio Town Meeting to share some thoughts on his recent trip to the International Space Station and the part ham radio played while he was on-orbit:

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Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, describes being surprised by the number of stations wanting to talk to him while he was on-orbit on the ISS.

--

This years Town Meeting was about careers that came about because of ham radio. Another speaker was Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, who explained how being a radio amateur put him in a limousine with the president of the United States:

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Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, describes being out on a motorcade radio remote for CBS radio and having to repair a microphone for then U.S. President Gerald Ford.

--

That incident lead Steve to a long and successful career with CBS radio and later with the ABC Television network. Steve was also a pioneer in repeaters and repeater coordination. That knowledge gained from ham radio lead him to bring frequency coordination to major televised sporting events nationwide.

And then there's the story of Mitch Wolfson, DJ0QN, from Munich, Germany. In his case the career has been lifelong because the Dayton Hamvention is where he met the lady who became his wife:

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Mitch Wolfson tells the story of coming to Dayton for Hamvention and by chance meeting the woman who would become his wife.

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Its amazing where becoming a ham as a teen or pre-teen can lead you and those attending this years Ham Radio Town Meeting got to hear some of the most interesting. More on Hamvention 2009 at the end of this weeks newscast. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNCERTIFIED WIRELESS MICS BRING $7000 NAL TO SENNHEISER ELECTRIC

The FCC has issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture and Order to Sennheiser Electronic Corporation in the amount of seven

thousand dollars. This for what the Commission says was the company's willful and repeated violation of Section 302(b) of the Communications Act and Section 2.803(a) of the Commission's rules by marketing of unauthorized radio frequency devices.

In July 2008, the Enforcement Bureau Spectrum Enforcement Division began an investigation into Sennheiser's marketing of wireless microphones. In a letter of inquiry dated August 15, 2008, the Division instructed Sennheiser to provide specific information regarding the manufacture, marketing, and the certification status of the wireless microphone systems it sells. In its September 15, 2008, response Sennheiser indicated that, while preparing its response, it discovered that one of its wireless microphones did not have a valid certification.

By another letter of inquiry dated February 9, 2009, the FCC sought further information regarding the uncertified wireless microphone that Sennheiser referenced in its first response. Sennheiser responded by telling the FCC that within the past year, it manufactured and sold units of an uncertified wireless microphone in the United States. It also stated that it has discontinued marketing the device in the United States. Sennheiser noted that the device was assigned several model numbers according to the frequencies on which it operates and claimed that the company inadvertently allowed a pending application for certification to lapse. This, while its marketing department assumed the application had been granted.

But the FCC says that a violation has occurred and that Sennheiser must be penalized for it. It notes that Sennheiser admits that it manufactured and sold units of the non certified wireless microphone in the United States within the past year. As such it is issuing the $7000 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Sennheiser. The company is expected to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: DTV TRANSLATORS APPROVED

The FCC has released its order establishing a new class of translators that will help stations fill in Digital TV coverage gaps in their current service areas. The FCC says that a total of 14 stations have submitted 20 applications for the translators, and eight requests for temporary translators. As expected, the commission will not allow the translators on channels 52 to 59. This is spectrum that is being cleared for use by advanced wireless services. (FCC)

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BREAK 3

Celebrating Hamvention 2009, this is the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world through the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: MARITIME DX FORUM IN NOVA SCOTIA IN AUGUST

The 6th Annual Maritime DX Forum sponsored by the Halifax Amateur Radio Club takes place the weekend of August 7th . The venue is the Rosaria Centre of Mount St. Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Speaker include such DX notables as Marti Laine, OH2BH, Joe Taylor K1JT, George Nicholson N4GRN, and others. Registration materials can be downloaded from the HARC Web site at www.halifax-arc.org or by e-mail to ve1qd (at) rac (dot) ca. (HARC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: CQ INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS TO ITS HALLS OF FAME

CQ magazine today announced its 2009 Hall of Fame inductees, welcoming 15 new members into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, two new members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame and one new member of the CQ Contest Hall of Fame.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to amateur radio. The CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame honor those amateurs who not only excel in personal performance in these major areas of amateur radio but who also "give back" to the hobby in outstanding ways.

A full list of the inductees has been published at www.cq-amateur-radio.com and several other ham radio news websites. Formal induction's to the CQ Halls of Fame took place at the contest and DX dinners at last weeks Dayton Hamvention. (CQ)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: KA3HDO GIVEN ARRL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

American Radio Relay League President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, presented former Amateur Radio on the International Space Station Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO with the ARRL President's Award. This award is voted on by the Board of Directors and given out every 7 or 8 years to honor someone's outstanding work. Bauer was recognized for his dedication to ham radio space related operations including his long tenure with the ARISS program. (ARISS)

**

RADIO SCIENCE: DTV CONVERTERS MAKE FOR BETTER ANALOG RECEPTION

A study conducted by Smith Geiger shows that seventy-five percent of over-the-air analog viewers polled said they received a better quality picture across all their channels after getting a digital converter box.

The survey of households about 2000 households that rely on converter boxes to make digital television signals available on their older analog sets. It was commissioned by the National Association of Broadcasters which says that the study found 47% of respondents said they had seen a major improvement in off-air TV reception. In addition, 54% said they were receiving more channels. Only 8% said they were receiving fewer.

No technical parameters of the consumer receiver and converter boxes were included in the press release. However it is very likely that the converter boxes are far newer technology and have more sensitive front end RF amplifiers and lower noise 1st mixers than those built into the television receivers.

And a reminder that all viewers without cable or satellite or a digital ready television receiver will need a converter box to watch full-power TV stations after the June 12 digital conversion date. Many radio clubs nationwide are assisting the FCC in educating the public on the digital conversion process. (RW, ARNewsline(tm))

**

ON THE AIR: THE 2009 WX4NHC ON THE AIR STATION TEST

The annual WX4NHC On-the-Air Station Test from the National Hurricane Center in Miami takes place Saturday, May 30th from 1300 to 2100 UTC. The purpose of this annual Station Test is to test all of the National Hurricane Center radio equipment, computers and antennas using as many modes and frequencies as possible. This is not a contest or simulated hurricane exercise. New equipment and software will be tested, and the centers staff will also conduct some operator training.

Stations working WX4NHC should exchange call sign, signal report, location and name plus a brief weather report, such as "sunny," "rain" or "cloudy." Non-hams may submit their actual weather using the On-Line Hurricane Report Form. If you want a commemorative card, please QSL to WD4R and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (ARRL)

**

DX

In DX, word that DL6NDK, with DL6LI, and DL9GTI will activate the Aland Islands from May 23rd to the 29th. They plan to work mainly in CW on 80 through 2 meters using several wire and vertical antennas. Also listen out for DL6LI using in PSK31. QSL's go via bureau or direct.

AH2Y and WX8C will be active from Guam as AH2Y during the CQWW WPX CW Contest that takes place on the 30th and 31st of May. QSL via Logbook to the World or direct to HL1IWD.

And G0TSM will operate portable SV5 from Dodcanese until June 3rd. He will be using CW and SSB and wants to focus mainly on 6 and 12 meters QSL to his home call.

Lastly, A team of Greek operators will be active as C4SV from Cyprus through May 29th. QSLs direct or via bureau to SV2DGH.

(From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A LAST LOOK AT HAMVENTION 2009

We end this weeks newscast with a retrospective look at Hamvention 2009. With it, here's Jack Parker, W8ISH:

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Once you get past the glitz of the new antennas, the radiant radio dials and the latest in ham radio software a world of wonderful and weird artifacts greet you in the outdoor flea market. There you will find acres of classic amateur radio equipment and other special items.

One enterprising seller was pushing the latest in used cattle prods. Drop in a couple new batteries and you are all set to zap your way through life. Just past the shirt, jacket and hat tent you could pick up some mighty fine perfume for the lady. They even had deodorant for men.

Saturday afternoon rain showers forced hundreds of hams back inside Hara Arena. People stood shoulder to shoulder and wheel to wheel to make their new equipment purchases. Many mobile hams in wheel chairs and on scooters found it difficult to cruise the arena floor. It would have taken a cattle prod to move through the crowd.

After standing in line a while to view a new piece of equipment, the crowds continued to grow. Right along with the heat and humidity. Thoughts of returning to the perfume table outside became a good idea after all.

Whether you were after an old part for your radio project, something digital and high tech for the ham shack or even taking in new found knowledge in one of the many forums, you will have to agree, there's nothing in the world like the Dayton Hamvention. We hope to see you there again.

Reporting for Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

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To which we add our sincere thanks to the Dayton Hamvention for its ongoing support of amateur radio and to past General Chairman Noel Mc Kewon, WB8QQC, and his wife Marilyn, KA8OVD, for the hospitality that they afforded the visiting Amateur Radio Newsline staff.

We will see all of you again at Hamvention 2010. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News, Australia's WIA News and the 2009 Dayton Hamvention, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

And this before we go. With only one week to go until its May 30th closing date so far there have been very few valid nominations submitted for this years Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. As such, the likelihood is that the 2009 award will not be presented because there is no basis by which our judging committee can formulate a decision.

>From our own collective backgrounds we know that there is one and only one hope for the future survival of amateur radio and that future lies with the youngest members of our community. That's the reason that we created the Young Ham of the Year Award back in 1986. But only you can spend the precious few minutes it takes to nominate a worthy young ham for an award that has come to signify the best of the best among the younger members of our hobby

The rules are simple. A nominee for Young Ham of the Year must be age 18 or younger and a resident of the United States, its possessions States or any of the Canadian provinces. He or she must hold a valid Amateur service license issued by the United States FCC or Canadian telecommunications regulator Industry Canada.

Also, a candidate should be someone who has done something outstanding as an Amateur Radio operator. Perhaps it was something special he or she did for his community through the Amateur service. Maybe it was some outstanding achievement that led to an improvement in amateur radio in his or her area. Or perhaps he or she was successful in recruiting a lot of new hams. Whatever it was or is, we want to hear about it.

To make a nomination, go to www.arnewsline.org and scroll down to the words 2009 YHOTY Nominations Now open, download the form, fill it in, attach data proving the claims made in the nomination and sent it regular U.S. mail to us at Amateur Radio Newsline, Young Ham of the Year, 28197 Robin Avenue, Saugus California 91350. And do not under any circumstances send your nomination certified, registered or by any other method that requires a receipt signature, There is nobody to sign for it and it will be returned to you. Just send it regular U-S mail and pray that the postal Gods deliver it.

As an alternative, you can scan and e-mail it to us at our regular electronic address of newsline at arnewsline dot org. Either way, the nominating period closes at midnight on Saturday, May 30th and we hope that we can report next week that the judging and 2009 YHOTY award will be able to proceed. We will let you know.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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212. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 20 (Friday, May 22, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-23 04:11:45 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090523041134.180DE30DDE@mailbackend.panix.com>
Source record: 2022
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 20
May 22, 2009
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IN THIS EDITION:

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* + FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year

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* + W1AW, W1HQ Receive Inspections, New Antennas
* + May Section Manager Election Results Announced
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ League Headquarters Closed Monday, May 25
+ W1AW/8 QSL Cards

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>;
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>;
============================================================

==> THE 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND DAYTON HAMVENTION: THREE DAYS
OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FESTIVITIES

When Hara Arena closed its doors on Sunday, May 17 after three days as
the 57th annual Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org/> came to
an
end, many agreed that this was one of the best Hamventions in recent
memory. With so much to do -- including close to 50 hours of forums and
the world-renowned flea market, as well as vendor tables that seemed to
stretch for miles -- the arena floor was filled with excitement.

Held in conjunction with Hamvention, the 2009 ARRL National Convention
was the largest exhibit at the event <http://www.arrl.org/expo>. At the
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ARRL EXPO, hams had the opportunity to do some kit building, pick up the latest League publications and Field Day T shirts, get a little competitive at the IARU table and drop off DXCC cards, as well as meet ARRL Officers, Directors and staff members.

One of the highlights of both the National Convention and the Hamvention was private astronaut Richard Garriott, W5KWQ <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/21/10660/?nc=1>, son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL. In 1983, Owen Garriott was the first ham to make QSOs from space while aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Richard, a guest of the ARRL and AMSAT <http://www.amsat.org/> at Dayton, told convention crowds about his journey to the International Space Station (ISS) <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html>. Ever gracious, he spent time with ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/21/10395/>, in addition to speaking and signing autographs at the ARRL EXPO area, the ARRL Youth Lounge, and ARRL and AMSAT forums. Garriott also spoke at a Saturday afternoon forum, telling how he fulfilled his lifelong dream of experiencing space travel. Combining Amateur Radio and spaceflight, he had QSOs with more than 200 hams while on the ISS.

The busiest place in the ARRL EXPO was definitely the kit building area. Led by ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, with assistance from QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and ARRL Instructors, hams (and non-hams, too!) sat down in front of a circuit board and soldering iron to build either a 24 hour clock or electronic keyer. "We saw a lot of people of all ages -- including a large number of kids -- coming over to build," Allison said. "A large majority had never built a kit before. They were so excited to be able to build something that they can use immediately." He pointed out that ham parents brought in their non-licensed children to build kits: "The little ones had a blast, and the parents were so proud that their kids are getting interested in Amateur Radio through the kit building projects."

The ARRL National Convention offered an expanded IARU exhibit area this year. Led by new IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, the booth was staffed by representatives from the three IARU Regions: The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) <http://www.darc.de/> from Germany represented Region 1 <http://www.iaru-r1.org/>, the ARRL represented Region 2 <http://www.iaru-r2.org/> and the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm> represented Region 3 <http://www.iaru-r3.org/>.

"It was exciting to see how many people came over to visit with us," Ellam said. "With the JARL processing applications for the IARU's Worked All Continent (WAC) <http://www.iaru.org/wac/> and 5-Band WAC awards, there was a steady flow of amateurs here." In addition to the WAC awards, the DARC sponsored a world flag identification contest and the ARRL offered a RUFZ <http://www.rufzxp.net/> CW copying competition throughout the event.

"It's certainly well known that hams from all over the world come to Dayton for the Hamvention," said ARRL International Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD. "We truly had an international flavor in the ARRL EXPO, though, as this was the first time that we had representatives from all three IARU regions in the IARU booth. We were glad to see many hams stop by and visit with IARU representatives from all corners of the globe."

A massive forum schedule was one of the key features of the Dayton Hamvention. In keeping with this year's theme -- DREAM: Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More -- there were numerous forums featuring digital radio. ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, presented a forum on digital contesting. Tying in with this, Shelby Sommerville, K4WW, led a forum on RTTY, both from the operations side and from the contesting side. ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, piloted a multi-level forum on D-STAR.

According to ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, there were close to 35 new products featured at Hamvention. From a 2 meter transverter module for the Elecraft K3 to a traditional hexagonal five band Yagi from DX Engineering to antenna tuners from Ten-Tec and Palstar, there was definitely a wide variety of the latest in ham radio gear to satisfy even the most hard-to-please ham.

For more on the 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention -- including a look at some of the new and exciting products -- check out the July issue of QST. The 2010 Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 14-16.

==> FCC LOOKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-126A1.pdf>. Currently, a vanity call sign costs $12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to $13.40 for 10 years, an increase of $1.10. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of $11.70 in 2007 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/31/105/> to a high of $70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from $20.80 to $11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting $201,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/> will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html >. There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.html>. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>.

==> TAKE AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE ARRL REGULATORY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

Hams always seem to have questions on how to interpret FCC rules and regulations. The ARRL's Regulatory Information Department (RID) -- led by Dan Henderson, N1ND -- is the first point of contact at ARRL Headquarters for such situations. The ARRL does not maintain its own legal department, so the RID provides answers to these types of questions, providing ARRL members with accurate information about the rules and regulations that govern the Amateur Radio Service. Its goal is to provide radio amateurs with the information they need to operate their stations safely, legally and appropriately.

RID handles hundred of e-mails and phone calls each month that ask for information on correctly interpreting Part 97, as well as other federal, state and local regulatory matters. According to Henderson, the most frequently asked questions concern FCC frequency allocations, the ARRL Band Plan and whether a particular activity is permitted on the amateur bands. "The most frequent areas of concern to members are antenna and tower issues, including questions about CC&Rs (deed covenants, conditions and restrictions) and PRB-1," Henderson said. PRB-1 is the FCC ruling that states that local and state governments must make reasonable accommodation when an amateur wishes to erect antennas and towers.

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Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org>;; or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> W1AW, W1HQ RECEIVE INSPECTIONS, NEW ANTENNAS

The antennas and towers at the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html>, and W1HQ, the Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/13/101/?nc=1>, received their semi-annual inspection on May 12. In addition to the inspections, new equipment was also installed on the W1AW antenna farm.

"Each year, W1AW and W1HQ get two antenna and tower inspections, one in the spring and one in the fall," explained ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM. "Sometimes Matt Strelow, KC1XX, and Andrew Toth of XX Towers will also do some antenna work during the inspections."

Strelow and Toth replaced the az-el rotators located on the satellite tower -- originally installed back in 1997 -- with a newer model. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, the older rotators were replaced due to signs of wear and fatigue after many years of use.

"The North tower received a new satellite turnstile antenna," Carcia said. "This turnstile antenna will be used in conjunction with our satellite weather fax receiver. This receiver is in use in the main area of W1AW and will allow visitors to see real-time pictures received from various weather satellites. XX Towers also replaced a coaxial pigtail on the 23 cm satellite antenna."

A new side-arm atop the 120 foot tower will allow vertical wire antennas to be hoisted to the top when the antennas are in use, accommodating the hoisting of W1AW's new 160 meter vertical antenna. Carcia said that this will come in handy during contests or other operating events.

In addition to 160, verticals for 80 and 40 meters may also be supported by the new halyard. "We will soon be installing an extensive ground radial system for the new antenna," Carcia said. "Look for W1AW during the next 160 meter contest!"

Strelow and Toth also inspected the W1HQ antennas that reside on top of the ARRL Headquarters building <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/19/10267/?nc=1>. According to Allison, the SteppIR antenna <http://www.steppir.com/> made it through the winter in good shape and all mounting bolts were checked and tightened.

==> MAY SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

In the only contested Section Manager race this spring, Mel Parkes, NM7P, of Layton, was re-elected as the Utah Section Manager with 480 votes. His opponent, Lauri "Mac" McCreary, KG7C, of Lehi, received 147 votes. Parkes, who has held the Section Manager's post since 1999, begins his sixth consecutive two-year term of office on July 1. Election ballots were counted on May 19 at ARRL Headquarters.

In the San Joaquin Valley Section, Dan Pruitt, AE6SX, becomes Section Manager on July 1 when he takes the reins from Charles McConnell, W6DPD. Both live in Fresno. Pruitt was the only nominee for this upcoming new term of office. He has held Public Information Officer and Emergency Coordinator appointments since 2005.

McConnell decided not to run for another term of office after having served seven years as Section Manager. Prior to his term as Section Manager, he served as ARRL Pacific Division Director for four years, from 1990-1993; he was also Pacific Division Vice Director in 1989. In 1976, McConnell became the Section Communications Manager, serving for 13 years.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their next terms of office beginning on July 1: Bob Beaudet, W1YRC (Rhode Island); Jim Cross, WI3N (Maryland-DC); John Dyer, AE5B (West Texas); Joe Giraudo, N7JEH (Nevada); Richard Krohn, N2SMV (Northern New Jersey), and Al Shuman, K1AKS (New Hampshire).

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "How bright the sunbeams" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Do sunspots matter? Many of us are surprised at how good conditions can be with zero sunspots; the weak solar wind and lack of flares and geomagnetic events likely have something to do with it. Many times during the more active solar periods, sunspots were welcomed, but then some event associated with the higher solar activity would make conditions difficult, disrupt

the ionosphere and increase absorption. For example, look back to the fall of 2003 bulletins via the index <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/2003-index.html>. In addition to the text, note the sunspot numbers and A index listings at the end of each bulletin. There were plenty of sunspots, but if you look at bulletin ARLP038 in September, or ARLP044 through ARLP049 around November, there were huge events that drove the planetary A index to 189 during one week and 162 the next. This is hard to imagine today. Over the near term, it looks like more quiet conditions. We had a nice seven day run of sunspots, but do not know when they will return. Sunspot numbers for May 14-20 were 18, 12, 15, 13, 14, 11 and 0 with a mean of 11.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 73.9, 73.7, 74.2, 74, 72.9, 72.3 and 71.5 with a mean of 73.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 8, 2, 5, 3, 4, 5 and 4 with a mean of 4.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2 and 4 with a mean of 3.3. Geophysical Institute Prague reports quiet conditions should prevail May 22-28. NOAA and the US Air Force predict solar flux settling back to 70, then rising again June 5-17. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's "May Song" <http://www.online-literature.com/goethe/2653/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the NCCC Sprint is on May 22. The MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint is May 25-May 26 and the SKCC Sprint is May 27. Next week is the CQ WW WPX Contest (CW) and Kids Roundup on May 30-31. Look for the ARCI Hootowl Sprint on May 31 (local time). All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 7, 2009 for these online course sessions that begin on Friday, June 19, 2009: Antenna Modeling and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing

assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>;.

* League Headquarters Closed Monday, May 25: ARRL Headquarters will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. There will be no W1AW code practice or bulletin transmissions that day. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Tuesday, May 26 at 8 AM EDT. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

* W1AW/8 QSL Cards: W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, reports that the QSL card for the W1AW/8 Special Event station at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention has yet to be designed and printed. "Once we have the cards in hand, all W1AW/8 QSL requests received at W1AW will be processed," Carcia said. "It just might take a few months, so please be patient." QSL via W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org/>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org/>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for

e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 20
May 22, 2009
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IN THIS EDITION:

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* + "The Doctor Is IN" the ARRL Letter
* + W1AW, W1HQ Receive Inspections, New Antennas
* + May Section Manager Election Results Announced
* Solar Update
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+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> THE 2009 ARRL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND DAYTON HAMVENTION: THREE DAYS
OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP AND FESTIVITIES

When Hara Arena closed its doors on Sunday, May 17 after three days as
the 57th annual Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org> came to an
end, many agreed that this was one of the best Hamventions in recent
memory. With so much to do -- including close to 50 hours of forums and
the world-renowned flea market, as well as vendor tables that seemed to
stretch for miles -- the arena floor was filled with excitement.

Held in conjunction with Hamvention, the 2009 ARRL National Convention
was the largest exhibit at the event <http://www.arrl.org/expo>. At the
ARRL EXPO, hams had the opportunity to do some kit building, pick up the
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latest League publications and Field Day T shirts, get a little competitive at the IARU table and drop off DXCC cards, as well as meet ARRL Officers, Directors and staff members.

One of the highlights of both the National Convention and the Hamvention was private astronaut Richard Garriott, W5KWQ <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/21/10660/?nc=1>, son of Owen Garriott, W5LFL. In 1983, Owen Garriott was the first ham to make QSOs from space while aboard the space shuttle Columbia. Richard, a guest of the ARRL and AMSAT <http://www.amsat.org/> at Dayton, told convention crowds about his journey to the International Space Station (ISS) <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html>. Ever gracious, he spent time with ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/10/21/10395/>, in addition to speaking and signing autographs at the ARRL EXPO area, the ARRL Youth Lounge, and ARRL and AMSAT forums. Garriott also spoke at a Saturday afternoon forum, telling how he fulfilled his lifelong dream of experiencing space travel. Combining Amateur Radio and spaceflight, he had QSOs with more than 200 hams while on the ISS.

The busiest place in the ARRL EXPO was definitely the kit building area. Led by ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, with assistance from QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, and ARRL Instructors, hams (and non-hams, too!) sat down in front of a circuit board and soldering iron to build either a 24 hour clock or electronic keyer. "We saw a lot of people of all ages -- including a large number of kids -- coming over to build," Allison said. "A large majority had never built a kit before. They were so excited to be able to build something that they can use immediately." He pointed out that ham parents brought in their non-licensed children to build kits: "The little ones had a blast, and the parents were so proud that their kids are getting interested in Amateur Radio through the kit building projects."

The ARRL National Convention offered an expanded IARU exhibit area this year. Led by new IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, the booth was staffed by representatives from the three IARU Regions: The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) <http://www.darc.de/> from Germany represented Region 1 <http://www.iaru-r1.org/>, the ARRL represented Region 2 <http://www.iaru-r2.org/> and the Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/0-2.htm> represented Region 3 <http://www.iaru-r3.org/>.

"It was exciting to see how many people came over to visit with us," Ellam said. "With the JARL processing applications for the IARU's Worked All Continent (WAC) <http://www.iaru.org/wac/> and 5-Band WAC awards, there was a steady flow of amateurs here." In addition to the WAC awards, the DARC sponsored a world flag identification contest and the ARRL offered a RUFZ <http://www.rufzxp.net/> CW copying competition throughout the event.

"It's certainly well known that hams from all over the world come to Dayton for the Hamvention," said ARRL International Vice President Rod Stafford, W6ROD. "We truly had an international flavor in the ARRL EXPO, though, as this was the first time that we had representatives from all three IARU regions in the IARU booth. We were glad to see many hams stop by and visit with IARU representatives from all corners of the globe."

A massive forum schedule was one of the key features of the Dayton Hamvention. In keeping with this year's theme -- DREAM: Digital Radio Enabling Amateurs to do More -- there were numerous forums featuring digital radio. ARRL Publications Manager and QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, presented a forum on digital contesting. Tying in with this, Shelby Sommerville, K4WW, led a forum on RTTY, both from the operations side and from the contesting side. ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, piloted a multi-level forum on D-STAR.

According to ARRL Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, there were close to 35 new products featured at Hamvention. From a 2 meter transverter module for the Elecraft K3 to a traditional hexagonal five band Yagi from DX Engineering to antenna tuners from Ten-Tec and Palstar, there was definitely a wide variety of the latest in ham radio gear to satisfy even the most hard-to-please ham.

For more on the 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention -- including a look at some of the new and exciting products -- check out the July issue of QST. The 2010 Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for May 14-16.

==> FCC LOOKS TO RAISE VANITY CALL SIGN FEES FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The FCC released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order (NPRM) on May 14 seeking to raise fees for Amateur Radio vanity call signs <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-126A1.pdf>. Currently, a vanity call sign costs $12.30 and is good for 10 years; the new fee, if the FCC plan goes through, will go up to $13.40 for 10 years, an increase of $1.10. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. Instructions on how to comment on this NPRM are available on the FCC Web site <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/howtocomment.html>.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program -- from a low of $11.70 in 2007 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/31/105/> to a high of $70 (as first proposed in the FCC's 1994 Report and Order). In 2007, the Commission lowered the fee from $20.80 to $11.70. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting $201,000 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal three years ago.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/> and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/> will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the "ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>, while the "Instructions for License Renewals or Changes" page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html >. There is additional information on the ARRL VEC's "FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices" page <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ Web page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/application-filing-faq.html>. The FCC's forms page also offers the required forms <http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>.

==> TAKE AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE ARRL REGULATORY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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"Each year, W1AW and W1HQ get two antenna and tower inspections, one in the spring and one in the fall," explained ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM. "Sometimes Matt Strelow, KC1XX, and Andrew Toth of XX Towers will also do some antenna work during the inspections."

Strelow and Toth replaced the az-el rotators located on the satellite tower -- originally installed back in 1997 -- with a newer model. According to W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, the older rotators were replaced due to signs of wear and fatigue after many years of use.

"The North tower received a new satellite turnstile antenna," Carcia said. "This turnstile antenna will be used in conjunction with our satellite weather fax receiver. This receiver is in use in the main area of W1AW and will allow visitors to see real-time pictures received from various weather satellites. XX Towers also replaced a coaxial pigtail on the 23 cm satellite antenna."

A new side-arm atop the 120 foot tower will allow vertical wire antennas to be hoisted to the top when the antennas are in use, accommodating the hoisting of W1AW's new 160 meter vertical antenna. Carcia said that this will come in handy during contests or other operating events.

In addition to 160, verticals for 80 and 40 meters may also be supported by the new halyard. "We will soon be installing an extensive ground radial system for the new antenna," Carcia said. "Look for W1AW during the next 160 meter contest!"

Strelow and Toth also inspected the W1HQ antennas that reside on top of the ARRL Headquarters building <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/08/19/10267/?nc=1>. According to Allison, the SteppIR antenna <http://www.steppir.com/> made it through the winter in good shape and all mounting bolts were checked and tightened.

==> MAY SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS ANNOUNCED

In the only contested Section Manager race this spring, Mel Parkes, NM7P, of Layton, was re-elected as the Utah Section Manager with 480 votes. His opponent, Lauri "Mac" McCreary, KG7C, of Lehi, received 147 votes. Parkes, who has held the Section Manager's post since 1999, begins his sixth consecutive two-year term of office on July 1. Election ballots were counted on May 19 at ARRL Headquarters.

In the San Joaquin Valley Section, Dan Pruitt, AE6SX, becomes Section Manager on July 1 when he takes the reins from Charles McConnell, W6DPD. Both live in Fresno. Pruitt was the only nominee for this upcoming new term of office. He has held Public Information Officer and Emergency Coordinator appointments since 2005.

McConnell decided not to run for another term of office after having served seven years as Section Manager. Prior to his term as Section Manager, he served as ARRL Pacific Division Director for four years, from 1990-1993; he was also Pacific Division Vice Director in 1989. In 1976, McConnell became the Section Communications Manager, serving for 13 years.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their next terms of office beginning on July 1: Bob Beaudet, W1YRC (Rhode Island); Jim Cross, WI3N (Maryland-DC); John Dyer, AE5B (West Texas); Joe Giraudo, N7JEH (Nevada); Richard Krohn, N2SMV (Northern New Jersey), and Al Shuman, K1AKS (New Hampshire).

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "How bright the sunbeams" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Do sunspots matter? Many of us are surprised at how good conditions can be with zero sunspots; the weak solar wind and lack of flares and geomagnetic events likely have something to do with it. Many times during the more active solar periods, sunspots were welcomed, but then some event associated with the higher solar activity would make conditions difficult, disrupt

the ionosphere and increase absorption. For example, look back to the fall of 2003 bulletins via the index <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/2003-index.html>. In addition to the text, note the sunspot numbers and A index listings at the end of each bulletin. There were plenty of sunspots, but if you look at bulletin ARLP038 in September, or ARLP044 through ARLP049 around November, there were huge events that drove the planetary A index to 189 during one week and 162 the next. This is hard to imagine today. Over the near term, it looks like more quiet conditions. We had a nice seven day run of sunspots, but do not know when they will return. Sunspot numbers for May 14-20 were 18, 12, 15, 13, 14, 11 and 0 with a mean of 11.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 73.9, 73.7, 74.2, 74, 72.9, 72.3 and 71.5 with a mean of 73.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 8, 2, 5, 3, 4, 5 and 4 with a mean of 4.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2 and 4 with a mean of 3.3. Geophysical Institute Prague reports quiet conditions should prevail May 22-28. NOAA and the US Air Force predict solar flux settling back to 70, then rising again June 5-17. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's "May Song" <http://www.online-literature.com/goethe/2653/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the NCCC Sprint is on May 22. The MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint is May 25-May 26 and the SKCC Sprint is May 27. Next week is the CQ WW WPX Contest (CW) and Kids Roundup on May 30-31. Look for the ARCI Hootowl Sprint on May 31 (local time). All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 7, 2009 for these online course sessions that begin on Friday, June 19, 2009: Antenna Modeling and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing

assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* League Headquarters Closed Monday, May 25: ARRL Headquarters will be closed Monday, May 25 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. There will be no W1AW code practice or bulletin transmissions that day. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Tuesday, May 26 at 8 AM EDT. We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

* W1AW/8 QSL Cards: W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, reports that the QSL card for the W1AW/8 Special Event station at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention has yet to be designed and printed. "Once we have the cards in hand, all W1AW/8 QSL requests received at W1AW will be processed," Carcia said. "It just might take a few months, so please be patient." QSL via W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for

e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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214. RadioSport Wiki

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-26 22:18:11 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gvho3k$57q$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2024

Following sent on behalf of Pete, N4ZR, and the Contesting Wiki crew.

The Contest Compendium's Table of Contents
<http://wiki.contesting.com/index.php/Table_of_Contents> has just undergone
a wholesale makeover, which will make it much easier for you to find topic
areas where you would like to read or contribute, either in the form of new
articles or by editing what is already there.

Eric, K3NA, did the work on this, and he has also come up with a new concept
(for the ham radio world, anyway) called Open Notebooks
<http://wiki.contesting.com/index.php/Category:Open_Notebooks>. These are
are wiki pages that record information about ongoing projects by contesters.
The term "projects" covers a wide range of territory, from day-to-day
details about constructing and maintaining a specific contest station to
complex research & development projects that aim to advance the state of the
art. Comments and suggestions are not only invited, but actively sought.
If you would like to share your current projects, or encourage others to
help you solve problems or find new solutions, this can be a very convenient
way, because the format can include graphics, audio recordings, and other
multimedia files.

Meanwhile, a growing number of articles is being added every day every day.
Today's crop includes revisions to the section on search and pounce
techniques, a new section on pileup techniques from the calling station's
perspective, and a new section on the use of older transceivers for
contesting, with what we hope is some good advice on good contest rigs that
won't break the bank. Have ideas in these or other areas? Join us and give
back your knowledge to ham radio contesters everywhere!

I can't begin to summarize all the information that is being added daily by
contesters world-wide - come check out the Table of Contents and see what I
mean.

73, Pete N4ZR
New Articles Daily - the Contesting Compendium at http://wiki.contesting.com
The World Contest Station Database, updated daily at www.conteststations.com
The Reverse Beacon Network at http://reversebeacon.net

215. The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-27 16:30:47 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gvjpqvsse1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2025

Each year at Dayton the KCDXC runs a "pile up competition" in which contestants attempt to copy as many calls as possible out of a simulated pile up.

This year the competition was won by software. The winner over some world class Radiomen, by a margin of 20%, was "Skimmer".

Detail at http://www.kcdxclub.com/pileup2009.html

73, de Hans, K0HB
"Just a boy and his radio"
---
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

216. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-27 22:53:21 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <785uimF1kft2dU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2026

Kï¿½HB wrote:

> This year the competition was won by software. The winner over some
> world class Radiomen, by a margin of 20%, was "Skimmer".

So much for those of us who routinely dismiss computers as not
approaching humans in its ability to copy CW in poor conditions.
Technology rolls on.

73, Steve KB9X

217. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1659 - May 29 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-29 06:02:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090528225846.02bb8098@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2027
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1659 - May 29 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank-you's to our generous listeners who support these weekly newscasts here's our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

In the Merry Month of May of last year we heard via PayPal from Michael Scheliga, Daryl Stout; Scott Currier- Haverville, MA; Rory Shaffer- Roebling, NJ; Thomas Home- Takoma Park, MD; Murray Hunt- Odenton, MD, David Carter- Washington, D.C.; Jesse Lindley- Greensboro, NC; Robert McClintock, N3RZI & KB3PHI in Franckville, PA; Robert Harlan- Mansfield, OH; Robert Mallory- KD8HXT, North Canton, OH; Paul Vinoski- Fisher, WV; Doug Papciak- Tucker, GA; James Drenthe in Galesburg, MI, who is a regular contributor; Wayne Strickland- W9BBB, Chicago.

Also from Illinois, John Leonard- W9JBL in De Kalb; Joseph Kratky- KA9KBU in Hickory Hills; James Langsted- Golden, CO; Lee Dusbabek- WR7NV, Las Vegas, NV; David Billeci- WA6UHA, San Francisco.

Also from California, Russell Williams- W6OHM in Latrobe; Matt Sturtz- Broomfield ; Roy Hepp- Carpinteria; Frank Brand- Tujunga.

And finally, and through the magic of PayPal, Mitchell Wolfson- DJ0QN, Unterschleissheim, Germany. That was fun! Got to exercise my schprechen ze Deutch!

That's quite a list, but you have to remember that most of those contributions were on the order of $10-$20, and this was right after a major capital campaign.

It costs almost $1000 a month to gather the news and put these newscasts on the air. And right now, things are pretty grim. Please do what you can to keep these newscasts on the air by logging onto our website and going to our PayPal secure contribution link, or contacting us at our Arcadia support fund address given at the end of this newscast.

For now, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and thank you.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1659 with a release date of Friday, May 29th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. The FCC tells AB2PP that it will not invoke PRB-1 to save his tower, three new ham radio cubesats are on-orbit and FCC rules enforcer Laura Smith speaks out on malicious interference. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1659 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

** RADIO LAW: FCC AGAIN REFUSES TO INVOKE PRB-1 TO ASSIST YONKERS NY HAM

There has been another setback for Thomas R. Morrison, AB2PP. This, in his fight with the city of Yonkers, New York, to keep his tower and antenna. A tower that the city wants torn down. Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, is here with the latest:

--

This is the third time Thomas Morrison, AB2PP, has sought assistance from the FCC in this matter. In 2006, he filed a request with the Commission, asking for a declaratory ruling regarding the tower but the FCC denied his request in January 2007. At that time the agency told Morrison that it would not intervene. It noted that PRB-1 permits the local authority to determine what constitutes a reasonable accommodation to a radio amateur based on what the city sees as its legitimate purposes, policies and concerns.

Morrison appealed again ib December 2008. On March 27 of this year the FCC notified him that it was again denying his reconsideration request concerning his antenna support. In that petition, Morrison again requested the Commission rule that the City of Yonkers did not provide reasonable accommodation in its building permit requirements as defined in PRB-1. But the FCC simply did not agree.

So Morrison tried again. In an e-mail dated this past April 15th he asked the FCC for reconsideration of its letter dated March 27th letter which declined to act on his request. This time Morrison asked the FCC find that the building permit requirements of the City of Yonkers do not comply with the Commission's policy regarding local regulation of amateur radio facilities.

But the FCC says it will not do that. It stated that it has already once said that PRB 1 does not cover his situation. Also that the fact that Yonkers had subsequently denied Morrison's request for a special use is not an appropriate matter for Commission involvement.

In this appeal Morreison had also claimed that he agreed that he would not to use the antenna until the City Planning Board has approved the structure. This, in order to settle the criminal case against him without incarceration, But he also said that that local authorities overstepped their jurisdiction by demanding this stipulation. As such he claimed that the city encroached upon the sole authority of the FCC to act in matters regarding radio transmission. Morrison claimed that this development warranted Commission action.

But the FCC appears to want no part of this case. Its reply to Morrison is short and quite to the point. We quote:

"The stipulation recites that it was agreed to by the parties. You indicate in your petition for reconsideration that you did not agree to this condition. If in fact you did not agree to it, you should raise the matter with the criminal court."

The bottom line is that the FCC will not will not come to Morrison's assistance because the agency does not see its intervention as a relevant issue in his particular case. This is because Yonkers is not depriving him of having an antenna and getting on the air, but just telling him that he cannot have the kind of tower and antenna system that he wants.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Henry Feinberg, K2SSQ, in New Jersey.

--

The FCC's unofficial advice to AB2PP appears to at least suggest that he either fully comply with the city of Yonkers demands or to settle it in court. The complete text of the FCC dismissal order on Morisson's request is on-line at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1123A1.txt (FCC)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: THREE NEW MICRO CUBSATS LAUNCHED

Three new ham radio microsats have been launched and are now on-orbit. The three tiny birds are identified as PHARMASAT-1, HAWKSAT-I and POLYSAT CP6. All three were launched on Tuesday, May 19th from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

PHARMASAT-1 is from Santa Clara University. Its transmitting on 437.465 MHz in AX.25 data protocol at 1200 bits per second. HAWKSAT-I was the work of the Hawk Institute for Space Sciences. Its on 437.345 MHz. Last but by no means least is POLYSAT CP6 sponsored by the California Polytechnic State University. Its on 437.365 MHz with 1200 bit per second data in AX.25.

Web reports indicate that good signals have been received from Pharmasat-1 and from Polysat CP6. (ANS)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NEW RADO REGS FOR HAMS IN PORTUGAL

Portugal has some new rules that its ham radio community must follow. For example, while establishing a communication an amateur must identify both station's call signs at the beginning and at the end of any transmission and at the end of a SQO session.

But that's not all. If the station is a mobile or out in the field, the amateur in control must identify each transmission with the station's call sign, followed by the word "mobile" or "portable." He also must transmit the present geographic location of the station in each transmission.

Visiting hams also have new rules to follow. Anytime a foreign amateur establish communications within the Portuguese territory under a "CEPT" license, the original station's call sign must be preceded by the proper regional prefix.

Approval of the new rules by Portugal's telecommunications regulator ANACOM took place on March 2nd but only became effective on June 1st. (CT1ETL)

**

RESTRUCTURING: SLOVAK STATIONS GAIN 4 METERS

Slovak stations have access to the pan-European or 70 MHz band. As of May first Slovak stations have privileges in the band segment from 70.250 to 70.350MHz with a maximum of 10 watts E-R-P. Only one caveat: Each Slovak station must apply for special permission to operate in the new 70 MHz. ham radio spectrum. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9AA Repeater serving Evergreen Park, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: SOCAL HAM WARNED TO STAY OFF SAN DIEGO REPEATER

A California ham has been ordered by the FCC to stay off of a San Diego area repeater or face some harsh penalties from the FCC. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

--

In her March 30th letter to Cory M. Herttua, N6HHT, of La Mesa, California, new FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith noted that the owner and trustee of the K6JSI system had requested, by letter dated February 25, 2009, that Herttua refrain from use of this repeater. Smith's letter claims that the written request was issued as a result of Herttua failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee and control operator of the repeater that he was obliged as a user to obey.

Smith's letter to N6HHT did not stipulate what licensee imposed rules Herttua was accused of violating. Only that that the Commission

expects him to abide by the license holders request that he stay off of the K6JSI repeater. Also that he obey any similar demands to cease operations on any other repeaters by any other repeater licensees, control operators or trustees.

Herttua was also told that his use of K6JSI repeater after receipt of the FCC letter could subject him to some severe penalties. This could include a fine or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies upon which he may operate. It could even lead an outright revocation proceeding initiated against his amateur radio license.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

You might remember our report last week from the Dayton Hamvention where FCC rules man Bill Cross, W3TN, said that a repeater licensee has an absolute obligation to control his machine even if it means limiting the use to certain operators. As such banning unwanted users is an accepted practice for a licensee to use to meet the requirements for positive system control. The full text of the FCC letter to Herttua can be read at http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Hertt09_05_07_5109.html (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: LAURA SMITH ON MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

Now that FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith has settled into her new job, a lot of hams are wondering how she views the problem of malicious interference and how it will be handled under her aegis. At the recent Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum, she tackled that question:

--

Smith: "We get a lot of malicious interference complaints. In fact that' s the bulk of the complaints that I get.

"Unfortunately these are a little more difficult to handle because malicious interference is a gray area, meaning what is it? What does it mean? And its based on the facts of the case.

"What I have to do is to take the information from you and determine if those facts of those circumstances at that given time was malicious interference.

"If it was, we can do a phone call for a one-time deal. Or we can do e-mail or some kind of letter in each one of these.

"Remember, enforcement is all about facts and when you give me the facts, then I can go forward and work out what we are going to do about the problem."

--

Smith believes that most malicious interference complaints can be resolved. For the more egregious ones there are far more severe penalties that she can and will invoke. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: BRAZIL CRACKS DOWN ON SATELLITE PIRATES

Brazil, working with the U.S. intelligence has begun a crack down on pirate operators who have been using an abandoned United States military satellite system for their own personal use.

The FLTSATCOM which is an acronym for the Fleet Satellite Communications System was a constellation eight non-encrypted communications satellites launched between 1978 and 1989. These were replaced in the 1990's by a newer and more secure satellite system, but two of the old birds remain operational. This was discovered by pirate radio operators in Brazil about a half decade ago, but no action was taken until the U-S discovered the illegal operators and filed complaints to Brazil.

Now, Brazil has undertaken an enforcement campaign called "Operation Satellite" In it, Brazilian police use coordinates provided by the U.S. Department of Defense and confirmed by Brazil's telecommunications authority to raid locations of suspected satellite pirates.

Among those already caught and charged have been university professors, electricians, truckers and farmers. The suspects face up to four years and jail, but are more likely to be fined if convicted.

According to one article the abandoned birds were left operational in case they were needed in emergency situations. The growing amount of pirate activity from Brazil has made them unusable for that purpose. Its not known if the United States might simply de-orbit the remaining birds to put an end to the pirate operations. (Published reports)

** SAFETY: HAM KILLED IN TRAFFIC MISHAP A United Kingdom ham has been killed and another injured in a tragic road accident. On Sunday, May 24th, Ian Firby G7VCG and Peter Rushton G7PMZ, were involved in an collision that clamed Rushton's life and caused Firby to be rushed to a hospital by air ambulance. The accident took place on the M 61 motorway near the town of Bolton. A 28 year old man was arrested at the scene. He is currently in police custody on a charge of dangerous driving. Firby and Rushton are both members of the Oldham Amateur Radio Club. In a statement, club president Geoff Oliver, G0BJR, said that Rushton's death is a huge loss not only to the club but to him on a personal level as well. (Southgate) **

LISTENING NEWS: HISTORIC STATION LEAVES THE AIR

An AM-radio station synonymous with Northeastern Pennsylvania, is off the air and likely will not be back.

WARM spent the last 50 years broadcasting news, music and sports to the community most recently on 590 KHz. According to published reports. the station went dark in mid-April and has been silent ever since.

Sam Liguori who hosted a Saturday polka show. He said the station's transmitter had failed, describing it as a major technical problem that would cost a lot of money to repair. According to FCC rules, if the station fails to broadcast for 12 consecutive months, its license will be cancelled. (RW)

**

D-STAR NEWS: NEW MONTHLY D-STAR NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

A new quarterly newsletter devoted to the digital voice mode D-STAR has been launched and can be downloaded free of charge. Called the D-STAR Info Newsletter it will feature news about the ode, related products and software, regional news on D-STAR systems and, hints and tips for users and much more.

The first issue now on-line includes these articles on the way that California Looks to 1.2 GHz for Frequencies, Grant Sources Can Fund New D-STAR Systems and much more. You can download the newsletter as a PDF file from www.dstarinfo.com/newsletter. (Southgate)

**

RADIO GEAR: NEW FIRMWARE FOR IV-7800 AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

IC-7800 owners, this one is for you. Revision 2.20 is a new firmware update for the IC-7800 on the English homepage of the Icom Inc. website. The firmware update will improved transmit function in sending transmit memory contents in operation in the RTTY and PSK mode when using an external keypad, an improvement in sending voice memory in SSB mode and CW memory keyer contents in the CW mode using external USB keyboard and programmable custom band-edge frequencies.

With the latter update installed, a user of the IC-7800 will hear a beep when tuning out of, or into the programmed Amateur Radio band. This is especially important to sight impaired or blind hams who will be able to be certain that they are transmitting inside on an appropriate frequency or band.

The firmware update is available to IC-7800 owners at www.icom.co.jp/world/support/download/firm/IC-7800/2_20/index.html (Icom, Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NM7P RE-ELECTED UTAH SM

In the only contested ARRL Section Manager race this spring, Mel Parkes, NM7P, of Layton, was re-elected as the Utah Section Manager . Parkes garnered 480 votes while his opponent, Lauri "Mac" McCreary, KG7C, received only 147. Ballots in this election were counted on May 19th at ARRL Headquarters. (ARRL)

**

HAM TECHNOLOGY: VK3RTV ATV REPEATER GOING DIGITAL

An ambitious project to convert the Australian VK3RTV amateur television repeater to all digital operation is underway down-under. This to bring one of the worlds longest running fast scan amateur television relay devices into the digital age.

The VK3RTV A-T-V analog system was established in 1977 to service Melbourne area. The new and improved digital VK3RTV will soon be on air using the DVB-T transmission standard. DVB-T is a terrestrial version of the digital broadcasting standard and can be received on commonly used household Set Top Boxes and digital television sets in many parts of the world.

The transition of VK3RTV from analog to digital is being primarily funded by Amateur Radio Victoria. It has spent $3,300 on the project so far. The Wireless Institute of Australia has now donated $1000 to aid in the conversion process. (WIA)

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RESTRUCTURING: UHF CB MAY EXPAND IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Communications and Media Authority is raising the possibility that the nations current 40 channel UHF Citizens Band may be increased accommodate up to 60 channels. An expansion would require a reduction in the simplex channel bandwidth from 25kHz to 12.5kHz and a lifting slightly of the band's upper frequency limit.

The proposals require new transceivers programmed to automatically switch between 12.5kHz and 25kHz as required. However some 25 kHz channels would be retained for the existing eight repeater pairs , emergency pair as well as the 22 and 23 telemetry and tele-command channels.

The Australian UHF Citizens Band band began in the late 1970s. Ast that time the government's plan that it would be the only CB band in Australia and everyone would switch from 27MHz AM and SSB to UHF FM. Because of the popularity of 27 MHz C[-B worldwide and the low cost of A-M transceivers that conversion did not happen. (WIA News)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW VENUE FOR AMSAT UK SPACE COLLOQUIUM

AMSAT-UK has announced a change of venue for the 2009 Colloquium. The annual gathering will now take place at the Holiday Inn Hotel at Guildford, which is close to the University of Surrey.

The Colloquium will take place July 25th and 26th. Planners say that there will be presentations on all the latest amateur satellite happenings and developments.

Also on site will be the RSGB's demonstration vehicle GB4FUN. It will also be there to show its satellite operations capability.

Full details of booking arrangements can be found on the AMSAT UK web site. That's in cyberspace at www.uk.amsat.org. (AMSAT-UK)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: INTERNATIONAL LIGHTSHIP AND LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

A total of 135 registrations have been received from 18 countries have already been received by the organizers of International Lightship & Lighthouse Weekend. Many more are expected before the event takes place on the weekend of August 15th and 16th.

Now in its 11th year this annual activation event run by the Ayr Radio Group of Scotland. It says that there was a record 406 registrations last year with the top countries being Australia and Germany.

For more information including guidelines, an online entry form and a list of entrants, visit the International Lightship & Lighthouse Weekend update website. Its on-line at www.illw.net. (VK3PC)

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WORLDBEAT: INDIA ISSUES ARDF COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Lion Ajoy, VU2JHM, tells Newsline that a new stamp honoring Amateur Radio Direction Finding has been released in India. According to VU2JHM the event was celebrated at the 10th A-R-D-F in Bangalore where a special cover and a special Postal Cancellation ceremony was held. With a bit of searching you can find a scan of the new stamp on line at the ham radio stamp collecting URL found at www.ea1ax.es/home2.htm (VU2JHM)

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WORLDBEAT: TAKING AMATEUR RADIO INTO SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS

The South African Radio League is working with the Sci Bono Science Discovery Centre and the Gauteng Provincial Department of Education to take amateur radio into high schools. This in association with the present Class B syllabus for the Grade 10 and 11 Electrical Technology curriculum.

The project will involve 82 schools and 88 teachers in the province. The plan is to train teachers to qualify as radio amateurs by the end of the year and to introduce the revised Electrical Curriculum to Grade 10 learners from 2010. (SARL)

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DX

F5MCC portable TH, and possibly TK5XN, will be on the air from Corsica until 11th June. They also plan to activate several lighthouses. QSL for F5MCC go via his home call and TK5XN via F2YT either direct or through the bureau.

8N5I will be on the air from Shikoku Island until 15th June. QSL via JARL bureau.

N6IC is heading north to visit his family in Alaska and will be active portable KL7 from Douglas Island. Listen out for him only during the day. QSL via his home callsign.

DK9IP will be active as 5H2WK from Arusha, Tanzania through June 5th. Activity will be a holiday style, so his operations will be limited. QSL via DK9IP.

Lastly, members of the Algerian Radio Amateur Association and Djelfa Radio Club will activate the special event callsign 7X2DD from June 15th to the 21st. This, during the International Algerian Sahara HAM Meeting. Operations will be on all bands and modes. A special certificate will be issued instead of a QSL card.

(From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THANK YOU DARA

And finally this week, a very special thank you to those wonderful folks at the Dayton amateur Radio Association and the Dayton Hamvention for their ongoing support of these newscasts. And sometimes their support comes in a rather unexpected way. Our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, was just about to begin last Saturday's Ham Radio Town Meeting when he received a big surprise from DARA President Steve Coy, K8UD and past-President, Jim Simpson, WB8QZZ. Here's Steve Coy:

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K8UD: "We want to recognize the fine work that Bill has been doing on Newsline. As President of the Dayton Amateur Radio Association it is my pleasure to offer you a $500 check to help keep Newsline going and continue on the excellent presentation that you have with that program.

"We try to give back to the ham radio community and we do appreciate your attendance today and we hope you will continue on for many many years in the future. And again, have a great Hamvention-"

WA6ITF: "Just let me say to DARA, to Steve and to Mr. Simpson over here -thank you and it will go to a worthy cause because this is what keeps the newscasts coming your way. Thank you very much. Thank you."

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Our thanks to DARA and the Dayton Amateur Radio Association for their ongoing and generous support of Amateur Radio Newsline. And our thanks to all of you who also support our all volunteer efforts to bring you the news of ham radio each week. It's because of you that we feel what we do as volunteers is worthwhile. (ARNewsline)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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218. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 21 (Friday, May 29, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-29 19:26:52 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090529190318.B7F6F32DF9@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 2028
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 21
May 29, 2009
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IN THIS EDITION:

* + FCC's Bill Cross: "Behave Yourselves!"
* + ARRL Donors Gather in Dayton
* + Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, Receives ARRL President's Award
* + ARRL Field Day Tips and Techniques that Everyone Can Use
* + The ARRL Triple Play Award: A Worldwide Event!
* + Ham Radio DIY at Maker Faire
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ 2009 ARRL Photo Contest Ends Soon
+ ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Saudi Operation

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> FCC'S BILL CROSS: "BEHAVE YOURSELVES!"

Bill Cross, W3TN, a staff member in the FCC's Mobility Division
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/index.htm?job=md>, and Laura Smith, FCC Special
Counsel for Amateur Enforcement, spoke at the FCC Forum on Saturday, May 16
at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. Cross opened by explaining just where Amateur
Radio falls in the FCC's bureaucracy: "In the Mobility Division [part of the
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau <http://wireless.fcc.gov/>], we handle the
day-to-day administration of the Amateur Service and some of the rulemaking
activities that affect Amateur Radio. The Division also has staff members in
our Gettysburg, Pennsylvania office. Our Gettysburg staff handles most of
your applications and the licensing matters and deals with the Universal
Licensing System, or ULS" <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>.

Cross offered some general comments on the Commission and its priorities,
then went on to discuss topics that he said "keep coming up in questions we
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receive in articles that appear on Web sites and in columns in newsletters and the like. I'm not going to spend a lot of time talking about Commission decisions that have been issued, because most of these have been reported on the ARRL or other Web sites."

Cross went on to say that he does hear from Riley Hollingsworth, who retired as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division in July 2008; Smith replaced Hollingsworth earlier this year. Saying he received an e-mail from Hollingsworth that asked his opinion whether he should get an amplifier or 260 feet of hardline, Cross said that was an easy question to answer: "Get both! Two hundred and sixty feet of hardline. Okay. Thirty feet through the house, 30 feet out to the tower and 200 feet straight up. That sounded pretty reasonable. But then I found out that what he was thinking about was 230 feet across the back yard and 30 feet up. So, I've still got some work to do there."

As for the FCC Administration, Cross said that "the relationships between the Commissioners are very collegial." Cross pointed out that earlier this year, President Obama nominated two people to fill Commissioner vacancies: Julius Genachowski for Chairman <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/03/10684/?nc=1> and Mignon Clyburn <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10795/> to fill the seat held by Jonathan Adelstein. Adelstein has been nominated to head up the Rural Utilities Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1>. "The last I read was that their confirmation hearings would be held after Memorial Day, and beyond that, we really don't know what's planned," Cross told the crowd. "So maybe by the end of the summer, sometime during the summer, the Commission will be back up to its complement of five Commissioners and we will have a new Chairman, too."

RACES

Cross said that he has been getting questions concerning RACES <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RACES>, asking what plans the FCC has to rejuvenate the organization. "The questions have been from a couple of FEMA guys who also happen to be hams," he said. "Now, in RACES, stations are certified by a civil defense organization and persons who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Radio operators license are certified by that civil defense organization as enrolled in it. I know that the term 'civil defense organization' is way out-of-date -- 'emergency management agencies' is probably a more current term. But the terminology used in the rules reflects that RACES was created in the Cold War era when there was a concern that everyone would be ordered off the air."

Cross pointed out that RACES "seems to be used for local, state and regional events and it is administered by FEMA. The rules require that communications transmitted in RACES be approved by the organization that certified people and that they're enrolled with. Fundamentally, RACES is there to serve whatever purpose that the emergency management agency has for it. Because the emergency management agency decides whether it has a use for a RACES group, the rejuvenation, if it is even necessary, will have to come from the local

or state organizations. They will have to get people interested in joining their groups if they have a use for them. Some of the people I have talked to in different government agencies wonder why we still have this service, given the way that emergency communications are run and managed today."

Amateur Radio and Pecuniary Interests

A topic that keeps popping up, Cross said, is business use of Amateur Radio, specifically transmitting messages on behalf of an employer. "Section 97.113 <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.113.pdf> answers this question straight on: 'No amateur station shall transmit communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules.' There are two exceptions. There are exceptions for teachers who are using Amateur Radio as the control operator of a station in an educational institution as part of a classroom thing and control operators of club stations in certain cases. A station is also not allowed to transmit communication in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. There is an exception to that rule that allows you to transmit communications that are commonly referred to as "swap nets," but eBay see
ms to have reduced the need for these nets. And you're not allowed to transmit communications on a regular basis which could reasonably be furnished through other radio services."

Cross said that Section 97.113 is in the rules for two reasons: It meets a statutory requirement and it is there to protect your frequencies from becoming the business radio alternative voice overflow, or "'BRAVO Service.' Because your spectrum is so valuable, if you let users such as businesses, TV stations, the National Weather Service or other users -- be they for-profit or non-profit -- use your frequencies to meet their communications needs, your frequencies will become their frequencies. All it takes is an allocation proceeding with the FCC, and your spectrum is gone. And you will be left whining about it in Internet chat rooms."

Cross pointed out the ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, "had an editorial on this on April 1, 2009 [on the ARRL Web site and in the April 2009 edition of QST] ["It Seems to Us: Keeping the 'Amateur' in Amateur Radio," page 9]. That's probably not the best day to date something, but you should read it. And I have plagiarized from that greatly because it is very elegant and spot on" <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/04/01/10668/>.

The bottom line, Cross said, is "that when any of us are on the air as amateurs in the ham bands, we are not pursuing financial gain for ourselves or our employers. The 'no pecuniary principle' has been reflected in the FCC regulations since 1928. It distinguishes us from commercial services. In 1993, the Commission, at your request, dropped the 'no business communications' language and simply prohibited communications on behalf of an amateur's employer or in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest. The Commission stated that any amateur-to-amateur communications is permitted unless specifically prohibited or unless transmitted for compensation or done for the pecuniary benefit for the station control operator or his or her

employer."

Cross said that it does not matter what type of technology -- be it SSB, digital, slow scan TV or CW -- is used to transmit that communications: "It boils down to a simple four part test that you, as the control operator of the station, must ask yourself before you cause the station to transmit a message. One, is the communications expressly prohibited in the rules? For instance, is it music, is it obscenity, something like that. Two, is the communications transmitted for compensation? Whether it's paid or compensation in some other way, such as, 'If you get this message to a friend of mine who's on a sailboat in the middle of nowhere, I'll pay your light bill.' Or, 'Get this message to someplace and I'll buy you a new radio.' That's indirect compensation. Three, does the control operator have a pecuniary interest in the communications? That is, could he or she benefit financially? Stock trades on ham radio benefit you financially. And four, does the control operator's employ
er have an interest in the communications? If the answer to each of these questions is 'no,' then the communications is acceptable with the caveat that it is not on a regular basis, one which could be furnished alternatively through other radio services."

There are limits to what an amateur can do on behalf of his or her employer, Cross said, as well as limits to the extent that Amateur Radio can be used for the purpose for which other radio services were created. "'No communications on behalf of an employer' means just that," he said. "There's no exception for the 15 minutes you're on break. There's no exception for 'Gee, it's the weekend,' or there's no exception because you want to do it. If it's your employer, you cannot transmit communications on their behalf. That is a commercial communications."

Public Service Communications

The last topic Cross addressed concerned public service communications. "There's no rule about public service communications as such in Part 97, because most of the messages you transmit that you think of as public service communications are allowed by Section 97.111 <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.111.pdf>. Paragraph (a) authorizes an amateur station to transmit two-way communications including, among other things, exchanging messages with other stations in the Amateur Service and communications necessary to meet essential communications needs and to facilitate relief actions." Cross noted that most of these transmissions -- the essential communications needs and facilitating relief actions -- are two-way exchanges with messages with other amateur stations. "The rule also authorizes you to transmit one-way communications, such as transmissions necessary to make adjustments to the station -- these are your tests, your tones, tossing the carrier to s
ee what the SWR is, that sort of thing -- and brief transmissions necessary to establish two-way communications with other stations."

Cross said that the rules cover everything we do as Amateur Radio operators: "Ragchewing, DX, contests, DXpeditions, county hunting, tuning up, everything. Ninety-nine percent of our communications fall under the rules that are there."

Emergency communications, by their nature, involve an element of immediacy, immediate safety of property and life. "Reporting where damage is, what happened after a tornado goes through or where power lines are down, is certainly public service communications and it's allowed under 97.111, but it may not involve an immediate safety of life and property," Cross explained. "A bridge washed out, for example, may need a more immediate response than downed trees, and reporting that is already allowed as just two-way communications between stations. A car with occupants floating down a river is clearly an emergency situation. In cases like that, the rules already provide that at all times and on all frequencies, each control operator must give priority to stations providing emergency communications. I have never heard of a case where a ham station has come on a repeater or a frequency and said, 'I have an emergency message,' and someone said, 'Wait your turn.' That's not your style
."

Laura Smith

The Dayton Hamvention was one of the first events Smith has attended in her role as Special Counsel. Cross introduced Smith, explaining that he used to work for her and that she was "one of the best people that we possibly could get for this job, because before she came to the Wireless Bureau, she had worked in mass media. After she had been in the Wireless Bureau, Laura had been the president of a trade association in Washington. Many of the issues that come up with other entities using amateur spectrum are entities that are either in mass media services or in land-mobile services and they are basically lusting after your bands. So we are fortunate now that when someone calls up, Laura has this breadth of knowledge of not only what the amateur stuff is, but where [land-mobile and mass media services] actually really should belong. And she can counsel them very gently that they need to get licensed here and not, you know, where they think they are. This is something you don't
see. Believe it or not, this is a tremendous help to you."

He mentioned that Smith plans to stay in this position for the long haul: "So if you have any ideas about a short-timer or think you're going to get away with it, plan on about 15 years down the road. In the meantime, behave yourselves!"

Smith explained that when she took over the amateur enforcement position earlier this year, the job had changed a bit from when Hollingsworth was in the office. "This job used to be in the Spectrum Enforcement Division down in DC; it was a remote position in a DC office," she explained. "It is no longer in that Division. I am actually a Field Agent. I'm attached to the FCC Field Office, I'm in the Northeast Region and my supervisor is the Regional Director for the Northeast Region." She told the crowd that she has spent a large portion of her time going through all the files that had accumulated, about 430 cases, while the position was vacant.

She explained the different types of complaints her office receives, such as complaints dealing with criminal investigations, technical violations, harassment and language complaints, malicious interference complaints and unlicensed users.

Smith also handles RFI complaints. Saying that these complaints are "ultimately going to be the most troublesome," she explained that there are two kinds of RFI complaints. "The first type of RFI complaint I get are the ones where your neighbors are complaining about you. You guys are causing interference to their television or to their radios or their telephone. The Commission generally tells them if you are a licensed amateur operator operating in the parameters of your license, then the Part 15 device that you are causing interference to is subject to that interference, and the rules state that very clearly. We suggest that they either work with you or they get a filter; those are the two suggestions."

Smith, in cooperation with the ARRL Lab, also handles utility line interference complaints. "This one, you would think, would be easy to resolve -- the power line is causing interference, the utility will come out and fix it and everything will be fine. Not quite so easy," she explained. "Those of you that have been experiencing it for 3, 4, 5, 10, 12 years know that in fact, that is not what happens. What I am discovering is that the utilities quite simply don't know how to fix the problem. They can't identify the noise. What they will do is they will go out and will find 15 sources of noise. They will fix these 15 sources of noise and then they will come back to me with this detailed list of these 15 sources of noise that they have fixed. Yea! We're all done. No -- they haven't fixed your noise. So they don't quite understand the concept of 'Don't just run out and fix everything you see, that's irrelevant to the amateur.' The amateur wants you to fix their noise."

Smith described that the first step the utilities need to do is to go to the amateur's house and listen to the noise and determine exactly what they're hearing. "This way, when they fix it, you can ultimately figure out if you have in fact fixed their noise. I'm trying to figure out a way with the Lab as to how we can best tell the utilities that they really need to think about how their processes work and what we can do to educate them so they can get out and fix this."

Smith has also given utility companies time limits to fix the noise complaints. "I am telling them, 'If you go out and you can't fix it, every two weeks you have to report back to me in writing why you can't fix it.' Utilities are, generally speaking publicly traded companies, so what happens is that they have a Board of Directors that they answer to. Those people are not going to want them to waste time and energy writing this crazy woman in Gettysburg every two weeks a detailed report. And believe you me, if they miss their deadline, I call them and tell them 'You've missed your deadline. I need your report.' I have spoken to more heads of utilities in the last three weeks than I ever care to speak to again. They have no qualms about calling me, saying 'We can't meet the deadline.' And I explain to them that's fine, I'll just write up this nice little letter [saying] you can write your check to the federal government."

Smith suggested to the amateur community "that we as a collective -- you guys and me -- we can have a great relationship, we can do this the easy way. You guys can, in fact, follow the rules and remember that when you signed up to become an amateur, you actually committed to adhere to the Commission's

rules. I'm going to strongly suggest that you hold to that. If you don't we can do this the difficult way, and I am more than willing to do that if it comes down to it."

Questions and Answers

Cross and Smith then took questions from the audience. They concerned grandfathering Advanced class license holders to Extra class, enforcing Amateur Radio rules on stations originating outside the US, what type of internal review is required before a Notice of Apparent Liability is issued, keeping undesired hams off a repeater system, issues with D-STAR repeaters allowing Internet content to be carried on amateur frequencies and establishments that sell 10 meter radios disguised as 11 meter radios.

Smith also told the crowd why she has not yet become a licensed Amateur Radio operator: "My father-in-law is Richard Smith. He is the former Chief of the Field Operations Bureau. The Field Operations Bureau was the precursor to the Enforcement Bureau. When Dick started his career at the FCC, he worked in the LA Field Office as an engineer; one of the duties that he had while he was out there was to administer the Amateur Radio tests. His expertise just so happened to be in the Code. He is an incredible operator. And so when I decided to take this job, I did not want to run out and get my license before I took the job for a lot of reasons. Not the least of which is I felt it would be a sham -- I wasn't an amateur before I took the job, I didn't want you to think that I was selling you so short that I was going to run out and get my license to try and validate myself for this industry. Instead, I said that I would wait and take the exam later and become an amateur as I got to k

now the community. When I told the story to Dick and I said I was thinking about getting my license, he said to me, 'You will not get your license until you can pass the code part of the test.' Unfortunately, he followed that up with a caveat, which was 'I will be there to oversee the administration of the test to determine whether or not you are competent and qualified to be an amateur.' So I have to learn code -- I obviously do not know it." Smith said she plans on learning CW this summer, along with her six year old daughter.

Cross closed the forum, quipping, "For those of you who are concerned, I made sure she went by the Vibroplex booth, and we also stopped by the Begali booth. So she got to see what the minimum requirements are for proper CW."

An audio feed of the FCC forum can be found on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC-Forum-2009.mp3>.

==> ARRL DONORS GATHER IN DAYTON

More than 100 ARRL donors gathered to mix and mingle at the ARRL's Eighth Annual Donor Reception on Thursday, May 14, just prior to the 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention. Hosted by the ARRL as a way to thank those who donated $1000 or more to the League in 2008, the reception -- held at the Meadowbrook Country Club -- featured a sumptuous buffet and a speech by new IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/11/10645/?nc=1>.

"It is always great fun to see many of our good friends at the Annual Donor Reception," said ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH. "I have a chance to catch up with the wonderful group of people share our dedication to ARRL and Amateur Radio. In the eight years that we've been holding this event, its popularity grows and we get to meet new donors, and in some cases, their spouses and children. We look forward to hosting this evening and having an opportunity to thank key donors in person for all they do to support ARRL."

One of the highlights of the evening was the introduction of three new members of the ARRL's Maxim Society <http://www.arrl.org/development/maxim.html>: Frank Donovan, W3LPL, of Glenwood, Maryland; Tom Hutton, N3ZZ, of Cupertino, California, and Tom Porter, W8KYZ, of Avon Lake, Ohio. With the addition of these three amateurs, there are now 61 members of the Maxim Society. Maxim Society donors are those amateurs whose lifetime giving exceeds $10,000.

This elite group embodies the spirit of ARRL co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, who, in 1914, envisioned an organization dedicated to encouraging and developing Amateur Radio as a source of enjoyment for radio operators and as a public service to communities nationwide. Maxim Society donors nurture the legacy and leadership exhibited by "The Old Man" so many years ago. Their infectious enthusiasm and deep commitment to Amateur Radio and ARRL are evidence of their abiding loyalty. Their willingness to contribute generously to the work of ARRL is evidence of a remarkable dedication to the vision of Hiram Percy Maxim.

After a welcome from ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, introduced Ellam, whose remarks focused on the impact that the ARRL had on his introduction to Amateur Radio as a young man in Canada, telling the story of how the ARRL Handbook played a pivotal role in his effort to secure his first Amateur Radio license in 1976.

"One of the textbooks for the Amateur Radio class run by my local club was the 1976 version of the ARRL Handbook," Ellam told the group. "The club also paid for associate membership in the ARRL, Canadian Division, which had the benefit of allowing students to receive QST. When it came time to write my exam, I decided to be a rebel. Rather than using all of the approved schematics to memorize and draw for the exam, I made one change: I drew a simple key klix filter that I had memorized from the ARRL Handbook.

"Weeks later, my exam results came in the mail. I had failed. The Canadian government decided the ARRL version of the key klix filter would not work north of the border and gave me a zero. This meant I failed the entire test, with no possibility of retaking it for several months. My hopes of becoming an amateur were crushed. So off to the local office of the Department of Communications I marched, with my trusty ARRL Handbook under my arm. After a spirited debate, the person manning the desk at the office allowed me to speak to an examiner and review my results with him. He argued I had failed to draw a correct key klix filter. I showed him the one in the ARRL Handbook. He refused to accept it! I pushed the issue. We went to see the district director, who was an amateur. He took one look at the schematic and said, "This is from the ARRL Handbook -- it must be right!" and overruled the

inspector and passed me on the spot.

"I was so impressed by the power of the Handbook that I have maintained my ARRL membership to this day. By doing that, I of course received QST and through that, I became aware of the work of the ARRL and IARU."

Ellam said that it was "an honor to speak at the ARRL Donor Reception in front of so many supporters of ARRL and the Amateur Service. The IARU appreciates the support of the ARRL as the International Secretariat."

For more information on giving opportunities, please visit the ARRL Development Office Web site <http://www.arrl.org/development/>.

==> FRANK BAUER, KA3HDO, RECEIVES ARRL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

On Saturday, May 16 during the forum featuring Richard Garriott, W5KWQ, at the Dayton Hamvention, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, presented former Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, with the ARRL President's Award. Bauer, who stepped down from ARISS <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/25/10724/> and Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation's (AMSAT) <http://www.amsat.org/> duties this past March, served as ARISS Program Leader and ARISS International Working Group Chair. Since 1991, he served as AMSAT Vice President for Human Spaceflight Programs.

The ARRL Board of Directors voted to create the President's Award in 2003. The President's Award is to go to an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio," and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Nominations for the award come from directors and are approved by the ARRL President and the Executive Committee.

Under Bauer's leadership, Amateur Radio activities have been on human spaceflight vehicles, including NASA-sponsored ham radio activities on the shuttle, Space Station Mir and the ISS. Starting in 1983, Bauer led the Goddard Amateur Radio Club team that provided around-the clock space shuttle retransmissions from the WA3NAN club station. These retransmissions provided the international ham radio community up-to-the-minute information during the flight of Owen Garriott, W5LFL, on STS-9 <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/archives/sts-9.html> and subsequent SAREX flights. In the days prior to the Internet, these real-time bulletins and frequent orbital element updates could only be obtained through Amateur Radio.

"For well over a decade, I have been fortunate to be part of a group that has been leading international teams together to focus on Amateur Radio on the ISS," Bauer told the ARRL. "As AMSAT Vice President for Human Spaceflight since 1991, I have really worked to get this international team to work as one, focusing on Amateur Radio. It is very critical to get all the space agency partners to have a vested interest in making sure we do Amateur Radio right on the ISS. We need to keep the partnership we have with our international team in good stead."

Bauer said that through the years, the AMSAT and ARISS teams have developed a substantial amount of hardware and software systems on the ISS. "We have trained astronauts and cosmonauts to use the equipment that we have on many modules," he said. "We have two systems on the Russian module with five antennas, and two L/S band antennas on Columbus <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/14/101/>, with new ones going up later this year -- all of this is being done by a volunteer team. Both AMSAT and ARISS have done a tremendous job promoting Amateur Radio, allowing hams to talk with astronauts and encouraging children to pursue technical careers."

Bauer said that when a new crew of astronauts comes on board at NASA, ARISS gives them a briefing, familiarizing them with the ARISS program and Amateur Radio in general. "We are very fortunate that all of the US astronauts of late have received their Amateur Radio licenses," he said. "We emphasize to them how important it is to get their license early in their training, because as their training progresses, they get caught up in everything and it is hard to find the time to study and take the exam. From an astronaut perspective, I think it's a little easier for them to pass the test, since they know most of the theory stuff, but they do need to be trained on the rules and regulations that govern the Amateur Radio Service."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, said he was very honored to present Bauer with his award. "I have had the pleasurable opportunity first hand to see Frank work with the international community to ensure Amateur Radio became and remained a part of manned space flight. Frank's ability to organize all parties to consensus regarding key issues was vital to the program. The amateur community owes a great deal of gratitude to Frank for his many years of dedication to service and education."

Bauer told the ARRL that he was "proud and humbled" to receive the ARRL President's Award. "It was a total surprise, I did not expect any of this. I want to thank the ARRL leadership for this very prestigious award. And thanks to the entire ARISS volunteer team for their outstanding support and diligence in inspiring our next generation of explorers through Amateur Radio contacts between school students and crew members on the ISS."

ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, who, together with Bauer, served as the USA delegates to ARISS, told the ARRL she was "very happy" for her colleague and friend: "Over the years, Frank continuously gave more to the ARISS project than anyone could ever expect of one person. He put his heart and soul into ARISS because he believed in its objectives: To introduce teachers and youth to Amateur Radio and the foundation of radio science, plus provide students with a way via radio to get involved in science, technology, engineering and math."

Bauer is currently the Chief Engineer for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate at NASA. This directorate is developing the next generation human spaceflight vehicles that will take NASA to the International Space Station (ISS) and then to the Moon, Mars and beyond. He is also providing some backup support to the Space Operations Chief Engineer who supports the space shuttle and ISS programs.

==> ARRL FIELD DAY TIPS AND TECHNIQUES THAT EVERYONE CAN USE

Many amateurs treat ARRL Field Day (June 27-28) as a contest, even though it isn't one <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>. But if your idea of Field Day fun is to go for the highest score possible, ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, offered the following suggestions at the ARRL Field Day Forum at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

1) You will get many more stations in your log by calling CQ than by tuning the dial and answering CQs; however, if you're calling CQ and not getting any replies, keep calling. Most major contesters call CQ for several minutes at a time before giving up. Giving up after three or four CQs is giving up too soon.

2) Keep your CQs short and to the point: "CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day, Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, Field Day." Wait about 5 seconds between CQs -- this gives stations enough time to answer you.

3) Use standard phonetics. "Cute" phonetics don't always get through and they can confuse newer operators.

4) When working a station, you should give your exchange information only once and keep it simple. "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy three Foxtrot Connecticut, QSL?" If they didn't get all of the exchange, they will ask for a repeat.

5) If you are running a pileup: Once you have pulled a call out of the pileup, give your exchange information first. Here's an example: "Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey, copy 3F Connecticut, QSL?" Don't ask for the calling station's information first -- this will reduce any sense of rhythm and timing in the pileup.

6) If you get a pileup of stations and can't make out an entire call, listen for one letter and ask for it specifically: "The station with Delta only, go ahead."

7) When you get the other station's information, keep your acknowledgment simple. "QSL, thanks, QRZ Field Day from Whiskey-One-Alfa-Whiskey."

8) Find a comfortable pace for you and maintain that pace. You will tire quickly if you are screaming into the microphone or trying to work stations too quickly. This leads to inefficiency.

9) Use a headset with a boom microphone and a foot switch -- this frees up your hands to log QSOs. Writing or typing with a mike in your hand slows you down.

10) Go for as many bonus points as you possibly can. Numerous opportunities exist, from copying the Field Day message to sending traffic to using natural power for QSOs.

These tips should help maximize your score on Field Day. Remember: No matter how you choose to enjoy Field Day, maximize your fun, however you define it.

==> THE ARRL TRIPLE PLAY AWARD: A WORLDWIDE EVENT!

The ARRL Triple Play Award (TPA) -- introduced January 1, 2009 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/> -- is available to all amateurs worldwide who confirm QSOs with each of the 50 states on voice, CW and digital modes via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>. Not even six months since its inception, the Triple Play Award has been awarded to 269 hams around the world.

The first recipient was Dave Strout, W2YC, of Williamstown, New Jersey. Strout achieved this milestone on January 15. The very next day, Jeff Wheeler, W7JW, of Plymouth, Michigan, received TPA #2.

But the TPA is not limited to US hams. On February 11, Scotland's Cris Henderson, GM4FAM, was the first ham outside the US to receive the TPA award, #158. Jose Vicente Pinto, YV6BTF, of Venezuela, received TPA #163, making him the first South American amateur to achieve the award. Hams in many countries, such as Brazil, France, Belgium, Spain, Germany, Poland, Colombia and Mexico, have claimed the Triple Play Award.

"An side effect of the Triple Play Award has been the increased issuance of basic Worked All States (WAS) <http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/> awards for Phone, CW, Digital and Basic modes," said ARRL Awards Manager Bill Moore, NC1L. "Comments on the Triple Play Award have been very positive, reflecting a renewed interest in the challenge -- and of course, the fun! -- that ARRL awards continue to provide. The Triple Play Award is the first of what we hope to be many more LoTW-only awards in the future."

The Triple Play Award is a one-time award -- once you have made the required 150 confirmed contacts via LoTW, you're done. "Even so," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said, "there are many possible variations on the theme. You can try to be the first (or at least the first on your block) or you can set your own pace. Think it's too easy? Limit yourself to QRP while operating your favorite mode (or all three). Maybe you prefer to be the quarry; it will quickly emerge which states are the most difficult to find, offering opportunities to earn the gratitude of your mates by activating the ones you can get to with your portable or mobile rig."

If you haven't yet begun trying for the Triple Play Award, why not start? There are still quite a few State QSO Parties this year, and the DX contest season starts in a few months. According to Sumner, contesters are among the most loyal devotees of LoTW. Once you begin, you might find that the pursuit can be terribly addictive.

The rules for the Triple Play Award state that two-way communication must be established on the amateur bands with each state on each mode (the District of Columbia may be counted for Maryland). There is no minimum signal report required. Contacts must be made from the same location, or from locations no two of which are more than 50 miles apart. Club station applicants must include their club name and call sign of the club station or trustee on their application. The Triple Play Award will be issued on sequentially numbered certificates, starting with #1, as determined by the time stamp of the electronic application as submitted via LoTW. There are no endorsements for this award.

Contacts made through repeater devices or any other power relay method may not be used for WAS confirmation (a separate WAS award is available for satellite contacts). All stations contacted must be land stations; contacts with ships, anchored or otherwise, and aircraft, cannot be counted. The only exception to this rule is permanently docked exhibition ships (such as the Queen Mary) and other historic ships will be considered land based.

Triple Play Award applicants who reside in the US must be ARRL members to be eligible to receive the award. DX stations do not need to be ARRL members. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

==> HAM RADIO DIY AT MAKER FAIRE

Ham radio demonstrations and displays are in the works for Maker Faire, May 30-31, the world's largest do-it-yourself (DIY) festival <http://www.makerfaire.com/>. This year, the festival will take place at the San Mateo County Expo Center in California. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R -- who is attending the fair along with dozens of San Francisco Bay Area hams -- this annual event showcases the country's best innovations in science and technology, engineering, arts and crafts, food and music. "It's no surprise that such an event has captured the attention of the ham radio community. Do-it-yourself, or DIY, has always been a signature of the Amateur Radio Service," he said.

Inderbitzen said that this year's Maker Faire theme -- ReMake America: Building a Sustainable Future -- is based on President Obama's call to action to participate in a new era of DIY. "The Amateur Radio community fits this mold perfectly," Inderbitzen said. "Hams represent the very best of service-to-country and community. We're both doers and makers of things."

A large exhibit area at Maker Faire is planned to help spotlight ham radio. The Foothills Amateur Radio Society is the primary sponsor of the Amateur Radio exhibit, but volunteers from many participating ham radio clubs and other related groups -- including the Silicon Valley Amateur Television Group, the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, the Mad Scientist Amateur Radio Club, the Kings Mountain Amateur Radio Club, the Burlingame Red Cross, BAERS Ham Cram and Ham Radio Outlet are going to be there, as well. The coordinating effort is being lead by ARRL Santa Clara Valley Assistant Section Manager Michael Pechner, KI6QNZ, of Palo Alto.

Inderbitzen said that the exhibit will include equipment demonstrations, a basic radio station setup intended for beginners, home brew project displays, an emergency communications van, live amateur television demonstrations and ham radio and radio control planes, as well as a demonstration pairing APRS <http://www.aprs.net/> and model rocketry. Club representatives will be on hand to discuss public service opportunities and to assist newcomers with information for getting started in Amateur Radio. Teachers and students who attend the Maker Faire on May 29 will get to see ham radio educational demonstrations on the day before the official Faire opening.

Started in California in 2006, Maker Faire is held annually in San Mateo, California and Austin, Texas. Maker Faire is supported by Make Magazine,

craftzine.com and O'Reilly Media. Additional details about ham radio at Maker Faire, including special event operating frequencies, are posted on the Foothills Amateur Radio Society's Web site <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/>.

For more information on the 2008 Maker Faire in Austin, Texas, check out this article by ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/06/21/10175/>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The marvel of Earth and Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot numbers for May 21 through 27 were 0, 0, 13, 0, 0, 0 and 0, with a mean of 1.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 71.8, 72.1, 70.4, 69.2, 68.9, 68.1 and 66.7, with a mean of 69.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 5, 4, 4, 3, 4 and 3 with a mean of 4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 4, 3, 4, 1, 2 and 2 with a mean of 2.6. Conditions have been quiet, with many days showing zeros for the planetary K index. The US Air Force and NOAA predict a planetary A index of 5 until June 3-5 when it goes to 12, then 8 for the following two days. Solar flux is predicted at 68 until June 5, when it goes to 70, then 71 June 6, and 72 for June 7-14. Perhaps we will see sunspots return during this period. Geophysical Institute Prague has a slightly different view for geomagnetic activity, predicting quiet conditions for May 29 to June 1, quiet to unsettled June 2-3 and active on June 4. For more information concerni
ng radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Ernest Henley's "Between the Dusk of a Summer Night" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/between-the-dusk-of-a-summer-night/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the CQ WW WPX Contest (CW) and Kids Roundup are May 30-31. Look for the ARCI Hootowl Sprint on May 31 (local time). Next week, the SEANET Contest, IARU Region 1 Field Day and the Alabama QSO Party are all June 6-7. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 7, 2009 for these online course sessions that begin on Friday, June 19, 2009: Antenna Modeling and Radio Frequency Propagation. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day

during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times
convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering
questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful
feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no
appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility
for the student
to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page
<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator
<cce@arrl.org>.

* 2009 ARRL Photo Contest Ends Soon: There's still time -- but not much -- to
enter your high-resolution digital image in the 2009 ARRL Photo Contest.
Entries must be received by May 31 via e-mail <upfront@arrl.org> (subject
line: 2009 Photo Contest). Details appear on page 20 of the April 2009 issue
of QST.

* ARRL DXCC Desk Approves Saudi Operation: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore,
NC1L, reports that the current 7Z1CQ operation in Saudi Arabia has been
approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards that were recently rejected for
this operation, please send an e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org> to the ARRL DXCC Desk
and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said. ï¿½

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<http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news
of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site
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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site
<http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during
registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW

bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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219. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-30 03:44:47 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <DY1Ul.80104$9w4.39213@newsfe08.iad>
Source record: 2029

Hello Hans,

Yes, it has become a digital world indeed. One cannot help but marvel at

PSK, with a bandwidth of not much more than 30 Hertz, and its' ability to

pull solid copy out of what is almost entirely noise.

Sigh ...

Best regards from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

"Kï¿½HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:gvjpqvsse1@news.eternal-september.org...
>
> Each year at Dayton the KCDXC runs a "pile up competition" in which
> contestants attempt to copy as many calls as possible out of a simulate
d
> pile up.
>
> This year the competition was won by software. The winner over some wo
rld
> class Radiomen, by a margin of 20%, was "Skimmer".
>
> Detail at http://www.kcdxclub.com/pileup2009.html
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
> "Just a boy and his radio"
> ---------------------------------
> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
> Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb
>
>

220. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-30 18:05:43 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gvrsh6$8nd$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2030

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:785uimF1kft2dU1@mid.individual.net...
> Kï¿½HB wrote:
>
>> This year the competition was won by software. The winner over some
>> world class Radiomen, by a margin of 20%, was "Skimmer".
>
> So much for those of us who routinely dismiss computers as not approach
ing
> humans in its ability to copy CW in poor conditions. Technology rolls o
n.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X
>

The whole point of radiosport is a competition between skilled radiomen.
Sort of loses its appeal when the competition gets down to "my computer c
an
beat your computer".

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
"Just a boy and his radio"
---
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

221. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-30 20:22:52 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <4a218581$0$250$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 2031

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <gvrsh6$8nd$1@news.eternal-september.org> =?iso-8859-1?B?S9hIQg==?= <kzerohb@gmail.com> writes:

>"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
>news:785uimF1kft2dU1@mid.individual.net...
>> K?HB wrote:
>>
>>> This year the competition was won by software. The winner over some
>>> world class Radiomen, by a margin of 20%, was "Skimmer".
>>
>> So much for those of us who routinely dismiss computers as not
>> approaching humans in its ability to copy CW in poor
>> conditions. Technology rolls o >n.
>>
>> 73, Steve KB9X
>>

> The whole point of radiosport is a competition between skilled
> radiomen. Sort of loses its appeal when the competition gets down to
> "my computer can beat your computer".

True, which is why contests that are intended to test human skill vs. human skill are usually very carefully structured as to the rules, and/or have both "assisted" and "non-assisted" categories. Which is why you will not see motorcycles competing in the Tour de France, for example. There are also very specific rules as to the makeup of a bicycle in professional racing (e.g., tubular frame in a "double-diamond" shape with no aero monocoque or "foil" designs, spoked wheels of equal sizes with no solid disc wheels, must be over a certain weight to avoid the temptation to engineer dangerous "stupid-light" designs, etc.) so that everyone is completing on an equal footing, and the race is arguably a contest of comparative human skill only.

However, contests that allow human vs. machine are still interesting as a counterpoint against those who would argue that, "a machine will never beat a human at X." Those that assert such things will find their arguments resting on shifting sands as technology can and often will catch up. Not too long ago, there were those that would argue that machines could not reliably copy Morse Code. A friend of mine in computers who is an officer of a long-standing local computer club to which we both belong was in the Coast Guard circa early 70's. One of his friends, a radio technician, was working in his spare time on

digital circuitry (flip/flops, etc.) to try and machine copy Morse code. He got it to the point where the circuitry could reliably copy some letters, but not others, and changes to the circuitry to copy those other letters undid the ability to copy the previous ones. He eventually gave up on it. My friend, circa-2000, asked me a serious question if technology had caught up to the point that Morse Code could be reliably machine copied. I told him that it had, with the earliest example that I was aware of being the Kantronics Kam, which came out back in about 1987. The 1987 rebuttal would be, "Sure, but let's see it copy in noise or a contest pileup." The argument would be reasonable, but would now be overcome by events here in 2009 with Skimmer.

Looking at the contest results shows the Skimmer rapidly moving up the rankings in the two years in which it competed (2008 and 2009), doubling its performance between those two years.

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFKIYUq6Pj0az779o4RAgFQAJ9RV59UQ4S2QCGNiGtMv8Oe/C/HIgCdFZ5K
FUpb97PEFtLs+PmgXitcGLs=
=sEBG
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

222. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-30 22:37:04 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <gvsce0$6m0$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2032

> Hans wrote:
>
>> The whole point of radiosport is a competition between skilled
>> radiomen. Sort of loses its appeal when the competition gets down to
>> "my computer can beat your computer".

Paul wrote:
>
> True, which is why contests that are intended to test human skill
> vs. human skill are usually very carefully structured as to the rules,
> and/or have both "assisted" and "non-assisted" categories.

There is a persistent and growing "noise level" of sentiment in Radiosport circles which insists that assistance like packet clusters, Skimmer, etc., are now so commonplace that the baseline station should be free to compete using those technologies.

It is becoming more and more difficult to retain a contesting category which pits unassisted "radioman against radioman". When that playing space goes away, then the ethos of "a boy and his radio" is forever lost.

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
"Just a boy and his radio"
----
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

223. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-31 11:35:22 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <gvtq1d$r7$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2033

"K&#65533;HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:gvsce0$6m0$1@news.eternal-september.org...
>> Hans wrote:
>>
>>> The whole point of radiosport is a competition between skilled
>>> radiomen. Sort of loses its appeal when the competition gets down to
>>> "my computer can beat your computer".
>
> Paul wrote:
>>
>> True, which is why contests that are intended to test human skill
>> vs. human skill are usually very carefully structured as to the rules,
>> and/or have both "assisted" and "non-assisted" categories.
>
> There is a persistent and growing "noise level" of sentiment in Radiosport
> circles which insists that assistance like packet clusters, Skimmer, etc.,
> are now so commonplace that the baseline station should be free to compete
> using those technologies.
>
> It is becoming more and more difficult to retain a contesting category
> which pits unassisted "radioman against radioman". When that playing
> space goes away, then the ethos of "a boy and his radio" is forever lost.
>
> --
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
> "Just a boy and his radio"
> ----------
> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
> Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb
>
>

Like everything else, it will probably go in cycles. At some point, there will develop a group who will specialize in the "old way" just like there are still sailboat races.

Dee, N8UZE

224. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-05-31 23:10:36 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <af40002d-03e3-46f9-9bc1-2c2776561a00@r34g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 2034

There's a song about all this - "John Henry".

In almost everything that humans do, it will eventually be possible to build a machine that does it better/faster. If it hasn't been done already, it's probably possible to build a chess-playing computer that no human can defeat. There are already aircraft which no human pilot can fly directly. IBM is supposedly working on a computer to play "Jeopardy".

None of this is new. There was a fiction story in QST called "The Man Who Broke The Bank" about a ham who built a totally automated Sweepstakes station, which proceeded to make an unbeatable score. It appeared in the issue for May, 1953.

This afternoon I briefly watched some Indy-car and NASCAR racing. It occurred to me that it's probably possible to build cars that would beat anything now racing, if the current rules of those sports were changed. But because such cars would fundamentally change the sport, (and probably be even more dangerous), the rules limit things like engine displacement, fuel tank size, etc.

On May 30, 6:37 pm, K HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
> There is a persistent and growing "noise level" of
> sentiment in Radiosport
> circles which insists that assistance
> like packet clusters, Skimmer, etc.,
> are now so commonplace that the
> baseline station should be free to compete
> using those technologies.

Well, that's just wrong, IMHO. Some of those technologies essentially turn a station into a multiop entry.

That doesn't mean they shouldn't be allowed, just that they belong in a different category.

> It is becoming more and more difficult to retain
> a contesting category which
> pits unassisted "radioman against radioman".
> When that playing space goes
> away, then the ethos of "a boy and his radio" is forever lost.

I agree 100%. The problem is, where should the line be drawn?

Since I became a ham I've seen many new technologies gain acceptance in radiosport. The first was the use of transceivers, which was already underway back in the 1960s. Then came no-tuneup rigs, almost totally

automated CW sending, computer logging/duping, multiple frequency memories, instant bandchanging, packet clusters, bandscopes and much more.

Not only have such things appeared, but their cost and complexity have been reduced to the point that they became the rule rather than the exception.

Perhaps we need a new category - call it "Ironman" for lack of a better term.

The requirements would be simple:

- No automated sending or receiving; iambic paddles are the limit. - No assistance from spotting nets, packet clusters, database lookups, etc. - No computer logging or duping, paper logs only. - One rig at a time, no more than 2 VFOs. No memories.

Why not?

73 de Jim, N2EY

225. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-01 02:10:13 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <78grjkF1m4k2mU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2035

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

> Perhaps we need a new category - call it "Ironman" for lack of a better
> term.
>
> The requirements would be simple:
>
> - No automated sending or receiving; iambic paddles are the limit. - No
> assistance from spotting nets, packet clusters, database lookups, etc.
> - No computer logging or duping, paper logs only. - One rig at a time,
> no more than 2 VFOs. No memories.
>
> Why not?

Depends on what you want to measure.

Your ironman idea measures specific skills -- receiving cw by ear,
sending using a keyer, using a paper dupe sheet.

An open category measures the competitor's skill in using whatever is
the current "state of the art" in terms of technology. At some point it
may measure nothing at all, when it's possible to crank up a computer
program and just let it work the contest while you snooze in an
airchair. But right now it measures skills -- just a different set of
skills.

Both of these are reasonable things to measure, but as you pointed out,
it doesn't make much sense to combine them into one category. Sort of
like apples and oranges -- they're both good, but different.

73, Steve KB9X

226. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-01 07:51:20 UTC
From: poster@giganews.com
Message-ID: <CZydnd4DBoKx1r7XnZ2dnUVZ_vCdnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 2036

Paul W. Schleck wrote:
> My friend, circa-2000, asked me a serious
> question if technology had caught up to the point that Morse Code could
> be reliably machine copied. I told him that it had, with the earliest
> example that I was aware of being the Kantronics Kam, which came out
> back in about 1987. The 1987 rebuttal would be, "Sure, but let's see it
> copy in noise or a contest pileup." The argument would be reasonable,
> but would now be overcome by events here in 2009 with Skimmer.

I'm the op who came in 3rd place. (behind Skimmer and Yuri VE3DZ)

It should be noted Skimmer is designed to copy a *subset* of Morse --
specifically, callsigns. If I were to send the contents of this post to
Skimmer, all that would come out is "W9WI" and "VE3DZ".

That design goal dovetails nicely with the KCDX Pileup Contest. Not so
much so if you were trying to actually copy messages.

That said, I'm sure the day is not far away when Skimmer or something
similar is able to do a similar job at copying general Morse.

==========

I'm surprised contesters are as up in arms about Skimmer as they are.
Personally I think Skimmer should be perfectly permissible for all
categories as long as all Skimmer equipment (RF, PC, etc.) meets the
500m-circle (or similar) rule. At least you're getting callsigns
through the use of your own equipment.

Which is more than I can say for Super Check Partial with databases
downloaded from the Internet.

--

Doug Smith W9WI
Pleasant View, TN EM66

227. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-01 13:29:03 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <78i1cgF1mcroaU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2037

poster@giganews.com wrote: [Actually, Doug Smith W9WI wrote:]

> I'm the op who came in 3rd place. (behind Skimmer and Yuri VE3DZ)

Congratulations. That is very impressive.

As an aside, you might want to check your Thunderbird configuration for reading news. It doesn't seem to be putting a From: header in your articles, thus the odd attribution above.

> It should be noted Skimmer is designed to copy a *subset* of Morse --
> specifically, callsigns. If I were to send the contents of this post to
> Skimmer, all that would come out is "W9WI" and "VE3DZ".

It seems to me that it's not possible to copy a subset of Morse. Before you can decide that a specific characters string is a callsign, you have to decode it. I suppose that it could look for numbers and then decode the rest of the "word", but even then it still has to examine each character to discover that it's not a number.

> That design goal dovetails nicely with the KCDX Pileup Contest. Not so
> much so if you were trying to actually copy messages.

Yes, there is rather a large gap between picking callsigns out of a pileup and actually being able to complete a contest QSO. The biggest challenge would be identifying that same station again in the pileup to copy the contest exchange.

> That said, I'm sure the day is not far away when Skimmer or something
> similar is able to do a similar job at copying general Morse.

Even in its current state, Skimmer seems to be a useful adjunct for contest operating. It is, however, just an adjunct, sort of like a narrow filter, and requires operator skill to use.

I do wonder how far we are from a computer program that can operate the contest by itself. Much closer than ever before, but still quite a ways away. One of the issues is the motivation to create such a program. There's PR value in building a program to beat chess experts . . . not so much for one to operate ham radio contests.

> ==========
>
> I'm surprised contesters are as up in arms about Skimmer as they are.
> Personally I think Skimmer should be perfectly permissible for all
> categories as long as all Skimmer equipment (RF, PC, etc.) meets the
> 500m-circle (or similar) rule. At least you're getting callsigns
> through the use of your own equipment.

I see your point, but I see it in the same way as categories based on power output or other such factors. Trying to create something approximating a level playing field is getting much more complex.

> Which is more than I can say for Super Check Partial with databases
> downloaded from the Internet.

Sorry, but I don't see any real difference. In both cases it's computer cycles taking the place of human brain power.

73, Steve KB9X

228. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-01 18:32:10 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h016qsoko1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2038

W9WI wrote:

>
> I'm surprised contesters are as up in arms about Skimmer as they are.
> Personally I think Skimmer should be perfectly permissible for all
> categories as long as all Skimmer equipment (RF, PC, etc.) meets the
> 500m-circle (or similar) rule. At least you're getting callsigns through
> the use of your own equipment.
>

I'm not opposed to Skimmer in competition with other Skimmer equipped competitors. I think it's a great demonstration of Amateur innovation, and represents the kind of thing we ought to encourage in order to showcase our hobby and it's potential to "contribute to the state of the art".

My opposition derives from my strongly held view that there always ought to remain one playing space in contesting where the radioman skills of discovering and copying the exchange are the key to winning.

That my contesting heroes like VE3DZ, W9WI, N2NC, KL9A, VE3XB, K1VR, N9RV, KE3Q, K1DG, etc were all defeated by Skimmer validates my position that it is out of place in the "radioman vs radioman" playing space.

>
> Which is more than I can say for Super Check Partial with databases
> downloaded from the Internet.
>

I share your disdain of use of such databases.
--

73, de Hans, K0HB
"Just a boy and his radio"
----
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

229. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-01 19:00:23 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h01605hdt1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2039

<N2EY@AOL.COM> wrote in message
news:af40002d-03e3-46f9-9bc1-2c2776561a00@r34g2000vba.googlegroups.com...

>
> I agree 100%. The problem is, where should the line be drawn?
>

For "phone" and "morse" competitions, my line for the "Basic Radioman"
category would be drawn to require all "exchange information" (ie, call
sign, serial, zone, or whatever other data is required to score a valid
exchange) be discovered and copied off the air aurally by the operator.

This would allow a competitor to engineer and build their station using
whatever RF transmitting/receiving suite they could purchase or invent. (I
hold that radiosport contesting is one of the predominate "technology
drivers" in Amateur Radio, and that station/equipment/antenna engineering
benefits greatly from this sub-hobby.)

It would allow them to use whatever labor saving devices appropriate to keep
their logs (ie., computer logkeeping).

It would not allow "discovery" technologies like spotting networks or
Skimmer.

It would not allow software that "auto-populates" any portion of the
required exchange. (ie., deduce from the call sign and automatically
populate the zone in CQWW)

It would not allow pre-built database lookups, like "super-check-partial" to
validate or "fill" callsigns copied off the air.

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

230. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-01 19:37:59 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h01ama$p0c$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2040

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:78i1cgF1mcroaU1@mid.individual.net...

>
> It seems to me that it's not possible to copy a subset of Morse. Before
> you can decide that a specific characters string is a callsign, you have
> to decode it. I suppose that it could look for numbers and then decode
> the rest of the "word", but even then it still has to examine each
> character to discover that it's not a number.
>

You're correct in that Skimmer needs to "know" all the alphabetic characters. And even in it's most elementary mode it has some rules which it uses to determine "this is a call sign" (ie., follows "de" or "CQ CQ" and corresponds to known callsign formats.)

In it's most "picky" mode, ("paranoid mode"), it compares what it copies against a database of known-good contester call signs (the infamous "super check partial" database), thus advantaging itself against all except an autistic savant human.

In the KCDXC competition it was further advantaged (as were the humans) to know that EVERTHING it hears is a call sign.

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
"Just a boy and his radio"
----
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

231. Dayton FCC Forum Audio Now At ARNewsline Website

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-02 06:02:31 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090601224636.017cf040@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 2041
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

To our valued listeners,

I response to a number of requests we have uploaded the entire 71 minute Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum hosted by Bill Cross, W3TN and Laura Smith as an MP3 audio file to our Amateur Radio Newsline website front page.

You can download it by going to http://www.arnewsline.org, then scroll down to "Click HERE to download the entire 70 minute Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum" and follow your normal download and save procedure for your web browser.

This recording was made using a Senheisser microphone at the speakers podium connected to an M-Audio Microtrack II professional digital audio recorder. Audio processing and conversion to MP3 was accomplished using Goldwave Editor Ver 5.52. We believe you will find the audio quality superior to various other recordings of this important forum available at various websites across cyberspace.

We hope that you will find it of value.

Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF Producer ARNewsline, Inc.

232. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-02 16:04:53 UTC
From: Al Lorona <al_lorona@agilent.com>
Message-ID: <7mZUl.18142$%54.2544@nlpi070.nbdc.sbc.com>
Source record: 2042

"K�HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:h01ama$p0c$1@news.eternal-september.org...
>
> In it's most "picky" mode, ("paranoid mode"), it compares what it copies
> against a database of known-good contester call signs (the infamous "super
> check partial" database), thus advantaging itself against all except an
> autistic savant human.
>
> In the KCDXC competition it was further advantaged (as were the humans) to
> know that EVERTHING it hears is a call sign.
>
> --
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
> "Just a boy and his radio"

Most of these computer-vs.-human exhibitions have involved a playing field almost laughingly tilted toward the computer, followed by pronouncements by the computer's inventor that it is only a matter of time before these machines surpass humans in a particular task, not unlike those we've read in this thread.

For example, take the 1997 case of IBM's Deep Blue vs. Garry Kasparov, the famous chess match "won" by Deep Blue. In that exhibition, the human, Kasparov, entered the scene with absolutely no advance knowledge of the computer's thought processes, strengths, weaknesses, tendencies, or anything else that might have simulated the normal preparation that Kasparov was used to prior to a chess match with a human. In fact, when Kasparov explicitly requested that he be allowed to study games that Deep Blue had played, IBM refused.

Deep Blue, on the other hand, was fed every game every played by Kasparov (and 700,000 other games) and took a few months to digest the information and learn everything possible (possible for Deep Blue, that is) about its opponent.

In addition, IBM modified Deep Blue's computer program between games to fix weaknesses that Kasparov had exposed during the match. These were not merely bug fixes but changes to the fundamental logic.

I wouldn't call this exactly fair, but anyway the match was played and we all know the result, including the triumphal pronouncements that followed on the part of the IBM team.

We may still see a computer surpass the best amateur radio contesters in our lifetimes, but for the moment, the "victories" claimed by these machines

have been under conditions too narrowly defined to threaten the experts among us. Only a little more work before they become useful tools, but replacing the operator altogether and competing at the world-class level? Still a long way away.

Al W6LX

233. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-02 19:08:25 UTC
From: Jeffrey D Angus <jangus@socal.rr.com>
Message-ID: <h03rq101aqu@news7.newsguy.com>
Source record: 2043

KØHB wrote:
> It would not allow "discovery" technologies like spotting networks or
> Skimmer.
>
> It would not allow software that "auto-populates" any portion of the
> required exchange. (ie., deduce from the call sign and automatically
> populate the zone in CQWW)
>
> It would not allow pre-built database lookups, like
> "super-check-partial" to validate or "fill" callsigns copied off the ai
r.

How do you go about enforcing that?

There has always been a certain element in our ranks that
feel "Win at any cost" is appropriate.

All of the above are valid techniques for working a contest.
That some people don't have access or the skill to use them
shouldn't mean the contest has to be designed for the lowest
common denominator.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

--
“Egotism is the anesthetic that dulls the pain of stupidity.
Frank Leahy, Head coach, Notre Dame 1941-1954

http://www.stay-connect.com

234. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-02 19:56:27 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <78lef1F1m1ahkU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2044

Jeffrey D Angus wrote:
> Kï¿½HB wrote:
>> It would not allow "discovery" technologies like spotting networks or
>> Skimmer.
>>
>> It would not allow software that "auto-populates" any portion of the
>> required exchange. (ie., deduce from the call sign and automatically
>> populate the zone in CQWW)
>>
>> It would not allow pre-built database lookups, like
>> "super-check-partial" to validate or "fill" callsigns copied off the ai
> r.
>
> How do you go about enforcing that?

It would be nice if that question didn't need to be asked.

> There has always been a certain element in our ranks that
> feel "Win at any cost" is appropriate.

That doesn't mean that we should throw up our hands and abandon rules. People cheat, not just in ham radio, but elsewhere. Sometimes they get caught; sometimes they just have to live with themselves.

> All of the above are valid techniques for working a contest.
> That some people don't have access or the skill to use them
> shouldn't mean the contest has to be designed for the lowest
> common denominator.

For some people, it's not "access to" or "skill to use", but instead a simple desire to see how well they can do on their own. After all, if all that we wanted to do was use the latest technology, we wouldn't be fiddling around with ham radio at all; we would just pick up our cell phones.

What's being suggested is establishing different categories to level the playing field a bit. You're absolutely right that many of the techniques under discussion are standard operating procedure these days, and it would be silly to refuse to acknowledge them as a part of the toolkit of today's operator. But if someone wants to pit their standalone wetware against other folks' wetware, that's just as reasonable as someone who wants to pit their skill at using every bit of technology available against other folks' similar skill.

Different strokes for different folks. Sure it takes skill to use computer-assisted operating techniques, but it takes skill to NOT use

them too. Both camps should be able to compare their respective skills in a contest.

73, Steve KB9X

235. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-03 04:31:50 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h04tfp$i42$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2045

"Jeffrey D Angus" <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote in message
news:h03rq101aqu@news7.newsguy.com...

>
> All of the above are valid techniques for working a contest.
> That some people don't have access or the skill to use them
> shouldn't mean the contest has to be designed for the lowest
> common denominator.
>

I haven't heard anyone seriously suggesting that we ban any of those
technologies from contesting, nor that we design "the contest" for the
lowest common denominator.

What some of us ARE suggesting (more like demanding, I suppose!) is that the
major contests (CQWW, SS, ARRL DX, etc.) continue to have one category which
emphasizes what, for lack of a better term, I call "radioman skills".

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
"Just a boy and his radio"
----
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

236. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-04 10:38:07 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <WHLVI.1076$Dr4.1058@newsfe24.iad>
Source record: 2046

Hello Paul,

Never, *never* bet against a retired master chief petty officer. I will guarantee that man and machine will loose.

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

"Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net> wrote in message news:4a218581$0$250$540ea2cf@novia.net...
> -----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
> Hash: SHA1
>
> In <gvrsh6$8nd$1@news.eternal-september.org> =?iso-8859-1?B?S9hIQg==?=
> <kzerohb@gmail.com> writes:
>
>
> True, which is why contests that are intended to test human skill
> vs. human skill are usually very carefully structured as to the rules,
> and/or have both "assisted" and "non-assisted" categories. Which is why
> you will not see motorcycles competing in the Tour de France, for
> example. There are also very specific rules as to the makeup of a
> bicycle in professional racing (e.g., tubular frame in a
> "double-diamond" shape with no aero monocoque or "foil" designs, spoked
> wheels of equal sizes with no solid disc wheels, must be over a certain
> weight to avoid the temptation to engineer dangerous "stupid-light"
> designs, etc.) so that everyone is completing on an equal footing, and
> the race is arguably a contest of comparative human skill only.
>
> However, contests that allow human vs. machine are still interesting as
> a counterpoint against those who would argue that, "a machine will never
> beat a human at X." Those that assert such things will find their
> arguments resting on shifting sands as technology can and often will
> catch up. Not too long ago, there were those that would argue that
> machines could not reliably copy Morse Code. A friend of mine in
> computers who is an officer of a long-standing local computer club to
> which we both belong was in the Coast Guard circa early 70's. One of
> his friends, a radio technician, was working in his spare time on
> digital circuitry (flip/flops, etc.) to try and machine copy Morse code.
> He got it to the point where the circuitry could reliably copy some
> letters, but not others, and changes to the circuitry to copy those
> other letters undid the ability to copy the previous ones. He
> eventually gave up on it. My friend, circa-2000, asked me a serious
> question if technology had caught up to the point that Morse Code could
> be reliably machine copied. I told him that it had, with the earliest

> example that I was aware of being the Kantronics Kam, which came out
> back in about 1987. The 1987 rebuttal would be, "Sure, but let's see it
> copy in noise or a contest pileup." The argument would be reasonable,
> but would now be overcome by events here in 2009 with Skimmer.
>
> Looking at the contest results shows the Skimmer rapidly moving up the
> rankings in the two years in which it competed (2008 and 2009), doubling
> its performance between those two years.
>
> - --
> 73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
> pschleck@novia.net
> http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
> Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key
>
> -----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
> Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)
>
> iD8DBQFKIYUq6Pj0az779o4RAgFQAJ9RV59UQ4S2QCGNiGtMv8Oe/C/HIgCdFZ5K
> FUpb97PEFtLs+PmgXitcGLs=
> =sEBG
> -----END PGP SIGNATURE-----
>

237. NiCd battery packs

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-04 10:38:22 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <78pj37F1k7vn7U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 2047

Hi all,

I have a couple of Icom 2m & 70cm transceivers (IC-V82 & U82) that I've had for two or three years, which came with NiCd battery packs. While these are still usable, they don't last long and so I've recently replaced them with Li-Ion batteries which are much higher capacity and don't require cycling as NiCd packs do.

What my memory fails me on is what is the best way to store NiCd batteries so that I can use them as spares if need be..? Do they like to be stored in a fully charged or discharged state or somewhere in between..?

73 Ivor G6URP

238. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-04 12:50:05 UTC
From: Dee Flint <deeflint01@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <h08ftd$uc4$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2048

"Jeffrey D Angus" <jangus@socal.rr.com> wrote in message
news:h03rq101aqu@news7.newsguy.com...
K&#65533;HB wrote:
> It would not allow "discovery" technologies like spotting networks or
> Skimmer.
>
> It would not allow software that "auto-populates" any portion of the
> required exchange. (ie., deduce from the call sign and automatically
> populate the zone in CQWW)
>
> It would not allow pre-built database lookups, like "super-check-partial"
> to validate or "fill" callsigns copied off the ai
r.

How do you go about enforcing that?

There has always been a certain element in our ranks that
feel "Win at any cost" is appropriate.

All of the above are valid techniques for working a contest.
That some people don't have access or the skill to use them
shouldn't mean the contest has to be designed for the lowest
common denominator.

Jeff-1.0
wa6fwi

Same way they enforce the power categories now for example. It would be on
the honor system.

Dee, N8UZE

239. Re: NiCd battery packs

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-04 13:34:53 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <cMPVI.213$tr5.19@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 2049

"Ivor Jones" <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote in message
news:78pj37F1k7vn7U1@mid.individual.net...
>
> Hi all,
>
> I have a couple of Icom 2m & 70cm transceivers (IC-V82 & U82) that I've
> had for two or three years, which came with NiCd battery packs. While
> these are still usable, they don't last long and so I've recently replaced
> them with Li-Ion batteries which are much higher capacity and don't
> require cycling as NiCd packs do.
>
> What my memory fails me on is what is the best way to store NiCd batteries
> so that I can use them as spares if need be..? Do they like to be stored
> in a fully charged or discharged state or somewhere in between..?
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP
>
Nickel Metal Hydride cells are more direct replacements. Li-Ion are very
different.

NiCads should be kept charged up with a light trickle charge in a cool
place. They will probably self-discharge and go to waste.

240. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-04 13:36:29 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <4a27ca12$0$196$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 2050

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <WHLVl.1076$Dr4.1058@newsfe24.iad> "Jim Hampton" <aa2qa@frontiernet.net> writes:

>Hello Paul,

>Never, *never* bet against a retired master chief petty officer. I will
>guarantee that man and machine will loose.

>73 from Rochester, NY
>Jim AA2QA

Hi Jim,

Thanks for your reply in this thread. I assume that you are referring
to Hans Brakob, K0HB, as the Master Chief. Yes, many of us in amateur
radio and on the newsgroups honor his service, both to his country and
to the ARRL, and also value his contributions to these forums. But we
also enjoy rebutting and elaborating on his ideas, too, and hope that he
will take it in the spirit that it is intended. This thread has been
very interesting and relevant.

I agree with Hans that contests need to be carefully structured with
regard to which types of assistance are appropriate in order to still
measure human performance and skill. Otherwise, they wind up being just
machine pitted against machine. As an aside, I noted that machine
vs. human or machine vs. machine can be useful to know where the
state-of-the-art is, and what is still in the realm of human skill.
Whether all human skills can be eventually emulated by machine, or only
some and in very specialized contexts, remains to be seen, and is an
interesting field of research, called Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI
has certainly had an interesting history of glittering promises and
ambitious implementation schedules that turned out be a little more
nuanced and stretched out than first imagined. But there have also been
advances in solving challenges that some would insist a machine would
never overcome.

I'm pretty sure that Hans would agree that some assistive technologies
are appropriate, some are not, and there is still room in amateur radio
contesting for some challenges that are mostly about human performance
and skill.

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/

Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFKJ8nU6Pj0az779o4RAmwJAKCO3pbwujR5G6KamOGKZPr8c7jcUwCgrSgP
BTsFjYynL4sB7BpyIV1RXNE=
=H4i9
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

241. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-04 13:38:04 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <4a27cc3b$0$244$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 1951

```
-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <78lef1F1m1ahkU1@mid.individual.net> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> writes:

>Jeffrey D Angus wrote:
>> K?HB wrote:
>>> It would not allow "discovery" technologies like spotting networks or
>>> Skimmer.
>>>
>>> It would not allow software that "auto-populates" any portion of the
>>> required exchange. (ie., deduce from the call sign and automatically
>>> populate the zone in CQWW)
>>>
>>> It would not allow pre-built database lookups, like
>>> "super-check-partial" to validate or "fill" callsigns copied off the ai
>> r.
>>
>> How do you go about enforcing that?

>It would be nice if that question didn't need to be asked.

>> There has always been a certain element in our ranks that
>> feel "Win at any cost" is appropriate.

>That doesn't mean that we should throw up our hands and abandon rules.
>People cheat, not just in ham radio, but elsewhere. Sometimes they get
>caught; sometimes they just have to live with themselves.

Amateur radio contests are generally structured as "trust, but verify."
Sanity checks on contest entries, as well as for operating awards,
include checking submitted logs against one another (computer automation
helps with this) and verifying logs for internal consistency. For
example, if you claim 1 transmitter, how were you able to make 2, or 3,
simultaneous QSO's? In the case of 160 meters, I understand that the
ARRL runs a propagation path modeling program to confirm that each of
the contacts were possible. Some things are a little harder to enforce,
like proving that someone made a contact as a result of a spotter
network, or just happened upon the pileup from tuning around. As you
note, sometimes they get caught, either from cross-checking, or just
that "people talk." And unless one is a complete sociopath, cheating
can be very unsatisfying in the end.

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
```

http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFKJ8v96Pj0az779o4RAp91AKDDIBQPnoqbNmgzCjAfBcP0hYkp2gCgmwAH
mVaUNcbboWITRS9LcerQ0Jc=
=FToj
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

242. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-05 04:23:26 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h0a6jfcst1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1952

"Al Lorona" <al_lorona@agilent.com> wrote in message
news:7mZUl.18142$%54.2544@nlpi070.nbdc.sbc.com...

>
> Most of these computer-vs.-human exhibitions have involved a playing field
> almost laughingly tilted toward the computer, followed by pronouncements
> by the computer's inventor that it is only a matter of time before these
> machines surpass humans in a particular task, not unlike those we've read
> in this thread.
>

This competition was not "tilted" to favor the robot. The competition has
been staged in pretty much the same format for many years (since 1981) at
Dayton, and only in the past two sessions was the Skimmer robot a player.
Last year it came in 67th place. This year it won.

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

243. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-05 04:31:36 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h0a72sfdt1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1953

For those of you wondering what this "Skimmer" thing is, you can visit the developers web site to learn more.

----> http://www.dxatlas.com/CwSkimmer/

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

244. Re: NiCd battery packs

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-05 04:59:57 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <78rkmkF1nfvg9U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1954

In news:cMPVl.213$tr5.19@nwrddc02.gnilink.net,
JB <nospam@goofball.net> typed, for some strange, unexplained reason:
: "Ivor Jones" <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote in message
: news:78pj37F1k7vn7U1@mid.individual.net...
: >
: > Hi all,
: >
: > I have a couple of Icom 2m & 70cm transceivers (IC-V82 & U82) that
: > I've had for two or three years, which came with NiCd battery
: > packs. While these are still usable, they don't last long and so
: > I've recently replaced them with Li-Ion batteries which are much
: > higher capacity and don't require cycling as NiCd packs do.
: >
: > What my memory fails me on is what is the best way to store NiCd
: > batteries so that I can use them as spares if need be..? Do they
: > like to be stored in a fully charged or discharged state or
: > somewhere in between..?

: Nickel Metal Hydride cells are more direct replacements. Li-Ion are
: very different.

I'm aware of that, which is precisely the reason I chose them..!

: NiCads should be kept charged up with a light trickle charge in a cool
: place. They will probably self-discharge and go to waste.

Thanks, that was what I thought, but my brain cell is not what it was..!

73 Ivor G6URP

245. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-05 13:00:52 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <78sj7nF1luts2U2@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1955

Kï¿½HB wrote:

> Last year it came in 67th place. This year it won.

This is an interesting commentary on how fast the technology is developing.

73, Steve KB9X

246. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1660 - June 5 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-05 13:12:09 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090605060736.01787008@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1956
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1660 - June 5 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank you's to folks who kept Newsline in operation last sumer, hers our support fund administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

In June we heard from the Raleigh, NC Amateur Radio Society; The Muncie, IN Area ARC, WB9HXG; Regular contributors Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH William Walters, WA2IBM in San Jose ; Stephen Perluss and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association in Mission Viejo.

Via PayPal there was Jim Keller, Peter Grace and Oscar Alonso of Robert Holton- Holland, MI, Martek Mississippi amd Biloxi, MS.

Samuel Woodham- Gulfport; Mark Joseph- KC9DUU in Champaign, IL ; Jarno de Haan- PA3DMI in the Neatherlands.

In the month of July including our regular contributors, we heard from the Catalina Amateur Repeater Association, AA6DP.

Via PayPal there was Taylor Valuations- Desta, FL; Adalberto Castelo- Newark, DE; Jack Haas- KB6ZBS, right here in nearby Glendora.

Many of you have written us notes or emails saying how valuable you think our service is: bringing you amateur radio news as it happens, instead of several months later in print. Just DX-peditions alone are often last-minute. You get it here, and you get it weekly.

You need to help keep these broadcasts on the air. Please write to us at our Newsline Support Fund address in Arcadia, CA, given at the end of this broadcast, or use our easy and secure PayPal donation link on our website: arnewsline.org.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and thank you.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1660 with a release date of Friday, June 5th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Brazil calls on its hams to help find a missing airliner, India sends hams to provide communications after a cyclone hits, an all clear on 40 meters following an Earthquake in Honduras and Ireland tells its hams that their licenses will last a

lifetime. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1660 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: BRAZILLIAN HAMS HELP IN SEARCH FOR MISSNG ARLINER

Brazilian amateur radio operators were part of the search effort after Air France fight 447 disappeared enroute from Rio de Janeiro to Paris on June 1st. The Airbus A-330 passenger jet was over the Atlantic when automated systems radioed a series of technical difficulties with the aircraft before all contact with it was lost. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is on our Newsroom with the latest:

--

Air France Flight 447 carried 216 passengers and a crew of 12. An airline spokesman said that shortly before the A-330 disappeared the plane sent several automatic messages reporting electrical and pressurization problems.

Andrew Sampaio, PY0FF, is one of the hams called to take part in the search. He says that shortly after contact with the plane was lost, messages were sent via amateur radio to vessels sailing the region of its last known position. These exchanges asked for any information on the disappearance of the aircraft. They also requested that ships be on the lookout for any sign of the plane.

On Tuesday, June 2nd Brazilian military reconnaissance aircraft found a 3 mile path of wreckage in the Atlantic Ocean some 400 miles from the Brazilian archipelago of Fernando de Noronha. This, the airline says confirms that Flight 447 had crashed in the sea. Ham Radio assistance in the search for Air France 447 has reportedly now been discontinued.

That's all we know right now. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, following this story from Los Angeles.

--

At airtime its not known how many Brazilian hams were mobilized to assist in the search for the ill-fated Air France flight. (PS8RF, Southgate, other news sources)

**

RESCUE RADIO: INDIA'S NIAR SENDS RESCUE RADIO OPRATORS TO CYCLONE DEVISTATED REGION

A three-member team of communicators from India's National Institute of Amateur Radio has been dispatched to assist in disaster relief efforts in the city of Kolkata. This, following a government request for two way communications in the wake of Cyclone Aila..

The team of emergency trained hams arrived in the city with radio equipment on June 1st to help the state government in relief work. They were quickly requested to set up radio communications in the flood affected areas of the north and south Parganas area.

Ram Mohan, VU2MYH,is a National Institute of Amateur Radio director. He says that his organization had received a letter from the north Parganas district magistrate's office. It asked that hams and two-way radio equipment be sent to the flood-affected areas of the district to help them in conducting relief and rescue work.

VU2MYH added thatalthough more than a week has passed since the storm Aila hit, there was still speculation as to the extent of the damage that the storm and flooding had caused. As such, damage assessment in the Parganas area is needed very quickly. How long the team from the National Institute of Amateur Radio will be on site is at this moment not known. (Times of India)

**

RESCUE RADIO: AN ALL CLEAR ON 7.090

If you were staying away from 7 point 090 MHz to avoid interfering with Earthquake related emergency communications to Honduras, word that the frequency is now clear. Dr. Cesar Pio Santos, HR2P, is the IARU Region 2 Emergency Communications Coordinator. He says that 7 point 090 is no longer likely to be used for emergency communications in connection with the quakes aftermath. Dr. Santos also thanked all amateurs who refrained from using the frequency for their cooperation. (Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: 40 METER EXPANSION IN SOUTH AFRICA COMES CLOSER

Expansion of the 40 meter band in South Africa band has come another step closer. This, after the board of the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa approves the revised radio regulations for publication in the Government Gazette.

A spokesperson for the telecommunications regulator says that he expects that the revised regulations will be published this week or next. According to the South Africa Radio League a special Boland Amateur Radio Club contest which will be held on the first Sunday after the new regulations have been published to celebrate. (SARL)

**

RESTRUCTURING: IRELAND GOES LIFETIME LICENSING

Ireland is issuing its hams lifetime licenses. Most licensees in Ireland by now have received letters from the regulator ComReg informing them that the lifetime licenses which will begin to be issued this month with an effective date of June 1st.

These letters reportedly came as a surprise to all as the documentation published by ComReg about the lifetime license was in the context of Experimenter Licenses. There was no discussion between ComReg and the Irish Radio Transmitters Society on this matter nor was there any indication of an intention to change to Amateur Licenses despite a meeting between the two back on February 12th at which time the possibility of a future lifetime license was discussed.

According to the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, a meeting on May 16th showed that of the nations major ham radio clubs only two were totally opposed to the idea. The others agreed that on balance the change was at worst neutral and at best beneficial.

At the conclusion of the discussion the consensus was that a letter should be sent to ComReg expressing disappointment at the lack of consultation or even notification of the change. It should also point out that all of the frequency bands in the European Common Allocations Table and ComReg's Radio Frequency Plan for Ireland which are allocated to the Amateur Service should be automatically made available under the new Amateur Radio lifetime licenses. This would result in considerable extra spectrum in the microwave region. The letter would also request ComReg to publish on its website the definition of Amateur Radio as contained in the ITU Radio Regulations. This is because that terminology highlights the self training and technical investigations aspects of amateur radio. (IRTS)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WO1E repeater serving Templeton Massachusetts.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: ALABAMA TO HOLD ARES FM SIMPLEX TEST

The Alabama Amateur Radio Emergency Service will once again conduct an FM Simplex Exercise. One designed to encourage members to forget repeaters for an afternoon and test their range on FM simplex.

This will be a two-hour exercise on Saturday, June 13th starting at 4:00 PM and running until 6:00 PM Central time and held during the ARRL June VHF QSO Contest. This to allow ARES volunteers the opportunity to contact more distant VHF contest stations, many of whom run high power and gain antennas.

During the event, stations will exchange call signs and grid squares. Last year's event, some ARES volunteers were able to make contacts over 200 miles away.

The frequencies that will be used are 52.525 MHz on 6 meters, 146.55, 146.58 and 147.555 MHz on 2. Also being used will be 223.5 MHz on 1 and 1/4 meters and 446.0 MHz on 70 Centimeters.

Other regions might want to consider such tests. This, so as to be prepared in case a disaster takes all the local repeaters QRT. (VHF Reflector)

**

RADIO LAW: CANADIAN TOWN VOTES AGAINST HAM RADIO ANTENNA

Residents of the town of Gordon Head, Saanich, Canada have won round one in their fight to keep a local ham from re-installing a tower that his father had on the same property for many years. This, as the Saanich councilors voted to oppose the ham-radio installation even after Mayor Frank Leonard told them that radio communications is the responsibility of the Canadian federal government.

Ken Jones, VE7BLN, who wants to rebuild the tower is a volunteer with the Saanich Emergency Program. This is an organization dedicated to maintaining communications during a catastrophic event like an earthquake. Jones says that all he is trying to rebuild a tower used by his father until about 1984.

But his decision has lead to outrage among some of his neighbors who call the tower an ugly structure that they do not want next door or where they can see it from their own yards. They took their case before the council that voted to back them and deny the tower a permit.

But the battle is far from over. This is because that nations telecommunications agency Industry Canada has the final say on the 15-metre high antenna support structure. Jim Laursen, who is the Manager of Spectrum Operations for Industry Canada, told the city councilors that Jones's tower height falls within national standards. Laursen explained that this is a nationwide compromise reached after much consultation and study.

Laursen added this note that may be ringing in the ears of the Saanrich Councelors. He said -- and we quote: "It is something that people are going to have to put up with coast to coast."

Translated into simple English it means that Industry Canada really has the final word on whether or not Jones tower can go up. Depending on whether or not Industry Canada overrides the town council this hearing could be just the first step in what could turn out to be a long and drawn out legal battle in the Canadian courts. (ARNewsline(tm) adapted from Canada.com, Canada Times Colonist, eHam.net)

**

ENFORCEMENT: YOU CAN'T OPERATE THERE

The FCC has sent a Warning Notice to . George Fuhrer, Jr., KC6JXM, of Torrance, California telling him that he cannot operate on 3 point 875

MHz with a Technician class license.

According to an April 29th letter from FCC rules enforcer Laura Smith, Fuhrer was allegedly heard on that frequency back on March 29th. Smith's letter to KC6JXM notes that under the terms of his Technician Class license, that he is not authorized to use that frequency.

Smith then warns Fuhrer that that this unauthorized operation of his station must cease immediately. She tells him that continued operation could lead to enforcement action hat could include a fine, suspension of his operator privileges, or his license being revoked. Smith also notes that it could jeopardize any attempts for him to obtain an upgraded amateur radio license. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMMENT: YOU NEED A HAM LICENSE TO OPERATE 2 METERS

Also receiving a Warning Letter from Smith is Andrew Macrae of Bozeman, Montana. In it, Smith notes that at multiple times in the last several months he has made radio transmissions in the 2 meter amateur band, even though he does not hold an Amateur service license.

Smith tells Macrae that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a valid FCC authorization is a violation of the Communications Act As such that it could bring with it some severe penalties. These include a substantial fine of up to $10,000 and seizure of the radio equipment being used. It could also lead to criminal sanctions including imprisonment.

Smith gave Macrae 10 days from the April 30th date of her letter to him to respond to her office. That date is now past. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: PROPOSED $7000 FINE FOR SELLING NON CERTIFIED 24 GHZ GEER

The FCC has issued a Issued a $7000 monetary forfeiture to Orvac Electronics, Inc., Fullerton, California. This, for marketing non-certified 2.4 GHz wireless video transmitters and wireless cameras that the agency considers to be intentional radiators.

The proposed fine is the result of a November 22, 2006, inspection of Orvac's retail store. That's where an FCC agent claims to have observed several models of uncertified wireless cameras and stand alone video transmitters on display and for sale.

Wireless video cameras and other short range 2.4 GHz video transmitters are classified as intentional radiators under the Commission's rules. As such they must be certified and labeled with an FCC I.D. number pursuant to the Commission's Rules before being offered for sale within the United States and its possessions. (CGC, FCC)

**

RADIO RECORDS: SA HAMS CLAIM 4 METER SSB METEOR SCATTER RECORD

A pair of South African hams are claiming the first ever SSB phone meteor scatter record for the 4 meter band. Andre Botes, ZS2ACP, of Port Elizabeth and Paul Smit, ZS6NK, in Polokwane say that they made the contact on May 6th at about 06:00 local lime on 70.200 MHz.

According to Smit, it took about 25 minutes to complete the phone contact with 5 by 5 signal reports both ways. He says that they were first listening on F-S-K 441 when they noticed some massive bursts of up to 8 seconds. This says Smit prompted them to try a contact on phone which occurred during the radio peak of the Eta-Aquarids meteor shower.

The 4 meter band which used to be exclusive to the United Kingdom is fast gaining favor across Europe and in some nations in the Southern hemisphere. Unfortunately for hams in most of I-T-U Region 2, those frequencies at 70 MHz are assigned to other services and will not likely be available to amateur radio anytime in the foreseeable future. Hams in the United States and Canada have long attempted crossband contacts with Europe by transmitting in the 6 meter band and listening on 4 meters and have met with some success. (SARL, ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ALGERIA TO HOST HAM SAHARA INTERNATIONAL MEETING

The Algerian Association of Amateur Radio and the Radio Club of Djelfa will be sponsoring the second International Ham Sahara International Meeting throughout the month of June. The venue is the city of Djelfa. According to organizers, every aspect of the event has been planned to make their guests from around the world welcome. More information is available from the Secretary General of the Algerian Association of Amateur Radio by e-mail to benlagha72 (at) hotmail (dot) com or to the Sahara International Ham Meeting at bodil17000 (at) yahoo (dot) fr (Via E-Mail)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DENVER HAMFEST IN AUGUST IN COLORADO

The Denver Radio Club in Colorado will hold its annual hamfest on August 16th at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in the mile high city. This popular event attracts over 600 hams from across Colorado and Southern Wyoming. Planners say that technical Seminars and VE testing will be featured at the event. For more information take your web browser to www.w0tx.org or email to drcfest (at) comcast (dot) net. (KB0A)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: AMSAT AND ARISS IN BALTIMORE IN OCTOBER

The 2009 AMSAT Space Symposium and ARISS Operations Team Meeting will be held on Friday, October 9th through Sunday, October 11th. The

venue is the Four Points Sheraton hotel that is on the Baltimore-Washington Airport property. More information on these twin events will be posted on the AMSAT North America and ARISS International websites as it becomes available. (ANS)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: MOHAMMED BALBISI JY4MB - SK

If you visited the Dayton Hamvention during the 1980's and early 1990's you might remember a rather friendly ham from Jordan with the callsign JY4MB. His name was Mohammed Balbisi and he came to Dayton fairly regularly to represent the Royal Jordanian Amateur Radio Society and His Majesty, the late King Hussein, JY1.

Now, we are saddened to report that JY4MB, became a Silent Key late last year. His passing was first mentioned in an article in the June issue of CQ Magazine by Stewart Gillmor, W1FK. We contacted Stew and he told us that he learned of the death of JY4MB in late 2008 on a trip to Jordan. He pegs the date as early December as he was there from the 20th to the 25th and had been told that Mohammed had become a Silent Key about three weeks earlier.

JY4MB was one of the true unsung heroes of amateur radio and the hobby never had a greater champion. As those who knew him will tell you, he lived the ham radio and shared his love of it with everyone he met. His broad smile and gentle demeanor made him a favorite among DX'ers and non-DX'ers alike. Because of this he will be missed by his many friends worldwide. (Info from W1FK)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-7 EXPERIENCING ECLIPSES

Turning to ham radio news from space, word that the AO-7 ham radio bird is once again experiencing short eclipses each orbit. This is preventing the 24 hour timer from switching modes. AO-7 has seems to favor Mode U/V almost exclusively during these periods. (AMSAT)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-51 TO BE DUAL FIELD DAY REPEATER

AMSAT says that the Oscar 51 ham radio satellite will be configured for Field Day. The bird will have dual FM repeaters with one operating on 1268.700 and 435.150 with the other on 145.920 and 435.300 MHz. No PL tone is required.

Please note that the 435.150 downlink is left hand circular polarized, and the 435.300 transmitter is right hand circular polarized. This configuration will be available for the week preceding Field Day, through the Field Day weekend. That's June 22nd to the 28th. (ANS)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: BEER WASTEWATER CONVERTED TO ELECTRICITY

>From the Newsline science page word than an innovative joint project between Australia's University of Queensland and Foster's Brewing to turn beer wastewater into electricity has won a $140,000 grant. This, from the Queensland Government's Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund.

A research fellow explained that the new technology worked by creating a microbial fuel cell, which feeds continuously on the organic materials found in the brewery wastewater, turning it into electrical power. The process also produces clean water and renewable non-polluting carbon dioxide.

The team from the University of Queensland Advanced Wastewater Management Center was one of six presented with the funding by Lindy Nelson-Carr who is the Minister for Environment. The presentation took place at Foster's Yatala brewery.

One last thought. If successful. this project may eventually bring new meaning to the words going out for an 807. (Science Daily)

**

WORLDBEAT: RADIO AND TV MARTI SEE SHARP CUTS

Since its inception many years ago, we have reported on the ups and downs of broadcast services Radio and TV Martï¿½. That's the U-S based propaganda sstations that beam broadcasts to Cuba which are routinely jammed by the Cuban government.

Now, according to news reports, Radio and Television Marti will lay off 20 percent of their workforce in a shake-up aimed at retooling the struggling stations. Thjis, in the face of a steep federal budget cuts that provide $2 point 4 million dollars less than last year..

The U.S.-funded broadcasts, aimed at breaking the information blockade on the island, will change formats in response to the proposed budget cut. Radio Martï¿½ will go to an all news format, and TV Martï¿½ will have a five-minute news update every half hour, with other programming filling the time between them.

The final goal is to eliminate 35 jobs at the combined Marti broadcasting facility while at the same time producing a faster and

more pointed newscast. (RW)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF TV IN BULGARIA

On the bands, listen out for special event station LZ50BNT to be active through December 31st. This in celebration of 50th anniversary of Bulgarian National Television. Operations will be on all bands and modes. A special QSL card will be sent to all stations who send their QSL via LZ1HA, either direct or by the Bureau. (OPDX)

**

ON THE AIR: SPECIAL EGYPTIAN LIGHTHOUSE OPERATION

SU1SK, and several other Egyptian operators will be active as SU8LH. This as the first Egyptian Lighthouse DXpedition on Ras El-Bar Island from August 1st to the 9th. Look for SU8LH to participate in the special International Lighthouse-Lightship Week event during this operation with activity on the High Frequency bands, as well as 6 meters using SSB and CW. QSL via SU1SK. (Southgate)

**

DX

In D-X, word that 9M6DXX and 9M6EVA, are celebrating their 25th Silver Wedding anniversary with a trip to the South Pacific. 9M6DXX will be active in SSB on 40, 20 and 17 meters with some operation possible on 15 as well. QSLs via M0URX, direct, via bureau or Logbook to the World.

KP2YL and KP2HC will be back on St. Croix through June 30th. Listen for them using CW and SSB on 160 through 6 meters. June is 6 meter DX season in the Caribbean, and Brian will be monitoring that band. QSL direct only via the addressees on QRZ.com.

And don't send QSL's for OD5GR to K5FI for two reasons. First, K5FI says hes not a QSL manager for any station, anywhere. More important, its looks as if OD5GR is actually an unlicensed station, so don't hold your breath waiting to get a confirmation from him.

Keep watch for HB9OAB satellite DXpedition to Morocco as CN2AB between June 27 and July 20. Franco says he favors operation via VO-52. QSL using e-QSL or via the bureau to HB9OAB.

Lastly, F5MCC ,and possibly TK5XN have been reported as active from Corsica. QSL's for F5MCC portable TK go via his home call and TK5XN via F2YT either direct or through the bureau.

(From various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: DIGITAL DELIVERY TO REPLACE FILM

And finally this week, get ready for a new communications experience. That of three dimensional digital movies coming to a big screen near you. Amateur Radio Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, has the details:

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Five Hollywood studios have agreed to help pay for a part of the estimated $1 billion cost to introduce digital theater projection technology on about 20,000 movie screens in North America. The rollout across the United States and Canada, covering about half of all screens in the two nations will cost of about $70,0000 per theater screen.

Adding digital equipment is the critical first step in the technological upgrade to being able to show 3-D movies. According to The Walt Disney Company, more than twenty 3-D films are set to hit theaters through 2010, but only 873 locations in the U.S. and Canada, with a total 1,264 3three dimensional projection systems, are currently available to show them.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

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Movies in 3-D were a novelty in the 1950's when audiences had to endure poor quality red and blue lens glasses to see them. Now with modern digital technology they may become commonplace and expected when you venture out to see something on the silver screen. (FutureTech)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Before we go this quick note. As a result of numerous listener requests, we have posted the complete 71 minute recording of this years Dayton FCC Forum on our website. To find it just visit www dot arnewsline dot org and look for the words "Special Report" in red then right click on the word "here" and save the way your web browser normally does for our weekly MP3 audio newscast. The recording was made using a Senheisser microphone at the speakers podium connected to an M-Audio Micriotrack II professional flash audio recorder and is about as good as it gets. We hope you will find thins audio file of value.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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247. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 22 (Friday, June 5, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-05 20:14:58 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090605194255.0D077324AF@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1957
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 22
June 5, 2009
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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> HIGH SPEED TELEGRAPHY ON THE WORLD STAGE

The October 1936 issue of QST reported on the first official "Amateur
Code Speed Contest" ever held. Eugene A. Hubbell, W9ERU, took home the
silver trophy with his wining speed of 52.2 words per minute. Held at
the ARRL Central Division Convention that year, the contest required
operators to decipher plain language text for two minute intervals that
ranged in speed from 25 to 52.7 words per minute. "Only bona-fide
amateurs, holding at least an amateur operator's license, were eligible"
to compete in the contest, the article stated
<http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=18072&pub=qst>.
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Fast forward to 1995. Competitors from 15 countries on three continents traveled to Siofok, Hungary to show off their CW operating skills in the first IARU High Speed Telegraphy (HST) World Championship. According to Barry Kutner, W2UP, HST has long been considered a sport in Europe, especially Eastern Europe, similar to chess or an Olympic sport. Kutner was the sole US representative at the 2005 HST World Championship in Macedonia. In 2009, he is leading a team of seven this September to Obzor, Bulgaria for the Ninth High Speed Telegraphy IARU World Championship <http://www.hst2009.eu/>.

Kutner said that most of the participating IARU Member-Societies hold a national competition in their country, seeking members to field and sponsor a team to the World Championship. "In some of the eastern European countries, where they take this very seriously, there are team and/or individual coaches, too," he said. Competitors must be licensed Amateur Radio operators, except entrants in the younger categories may be SWLs. The IARU HST World Championships follow rules set forth by the IARU Region 1 High Speed Telegraphy Working Group <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/archives/hstrules.pdf>.

In the US, Kutner said those who wish to participate in the World Championship do so at their own expense. "In past years, there has either been one -- myself in 2005 and Ilya Kleyman in 2007 -- or no US participants," he told the ARRL. "This year, we have a team!"

The US team consists of shortwave listener Brana Kleyman (category A, women 16 and younger); Kody Low, KB3RUP, and Cal Darula, K0DXC (category B, men 16 and younger); Ilya Kleyman, KE7OPG, and Ken Low, NV1P (category H, men age 40-49), and Gary Schmidt, W5ZL, and Kutner (Category I, men 50 and older). "The 2 OM categories are full," Kutner said. "But we are always looking for younger hams, especially young ladies!" There are nine categories, and each country can only send two competitors per category, for a maximum of 18 competitors.

There are three main competitive events at HST meets: Transmitting, receiving and receiving Amateur Radio call signs via RUFZxp <http://www.rufzxp.net/>; the sending and receiving portions of the competition are referred to as the Radioamateur Practicing Tests (RPT). There is also a pileup competition.

In the RPT, random letters and numbers are sent via Morse code -- five characters at a time -- at a high speed. Separate competitions are held for the reception of only the 26 letters of the Latin alphabet, only the 10 Arabic numerals or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols. Competitors may choose to record the text by hand on paper or by typing on a computer keyboard. The competition starts with one minute of transmission sent at an initial speed defined for the entry category (usually 50 letters per minute for juniors and 80 letters per minute for the other age categories). After each test, the competitors' copy is judged for errors. Subsequent tests are each conducted at an increased speed until no competitor remains who can copy the text without excessive error.

The transmission tests require competitors to send five character groups in Morse code as fast as possible. Competitors send a printed message of five character groups at a specific speed that is judged for its accuracy by a panel of referees. Like the receiving tests, there are separate competitions for sending five character groups of only letters, only numbers or a mixed content of letters, numbers and some punctuation symbols.

Kutner noted that 100 letters per minute is equivalent to 25 words per minute and 100 numbers per minute is equal to 36 words per minute. The mixed category of 100 letters, numbers and punctuation is equal to 29 words per minute.

The Amateur Radio Call Sign Receiving Test uses a software program called RufzXP that generates a score for each competitor. Rufz is the abbreviation of the German word Rufzeichen-Horen that means "listening of call signs." In RufzXP, competitors listen to an Amateur Radio call sign sent in Morse code and must enter that call sign with the computer keyboard. If the competitor types in the call sign correctly, their score improves, and the speed at which the program sends subsequent call signs increases. If the competitor types in the call sign incorrectly, the score is penalized and the speed decreases. Only one call sign is sent at a time and the event continues for a fixed number of call signs (usually 50). Competitors can choose the initial speed at which the program sends the Morse code and the winner is the competitor with the highest generated score.

There is also a Pileup Trainer Test that simulates a pileup situation on the air -- numerous stations attempt to establish two-way contact with one particular station at the same time. This competition uses a software program called MorseRunner <http://www.dxatlas.com/MorseRunner/>. In this test, more than one amateur radio call sign is sent at a time via Morse code that is generated at different audio frequencies and speeds, timed to overlap each other. Competitors must record as many of the call signs as they can during a fixed period of time. They may choose to do this either by recording the call signs by hand on paper or by typing them in with a computer keyboard. The winner is the competitor with the most correctly recorded call signs.

Kutner said that each US team member practices on an individual basis, using both on-the-air and computer generated CW. As the team gears up for Bulgaria, "we are in frequent contact via e-mail, exchanging tips and ideas," he said.

HST has definitely come a long way since 1936 when Hubbell dazzled the crowds with 52.2 words per minute; competitors at the IARU HST World Championships consistently have speeds of more than 500 characters per minute -- 100 words per minute. While it's too late to join the 2009 US team, it's not too early to think about upcoming events. If you are able to copy and/or send CW at dizzying speeds, why not think about attending the next IARU HST World Championship? For more information on HST events, contact Kutner via e-mail <w2up@arrl.net>.

==> CHANGES TO ARRL VHF/UHF CONTEST RULES NOW IN PLACE

The League's Programs and Services Committee has approved recommendations made by the ARRL's VHF-UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) <http://www.arrl.org/contests/vuac.html> to change two rules in the ARRL's VHF/UHF contest program. These changes are in effect immediately, and include the 2009 June VHF QSO Party, scheduled for June 13-15 <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/june-vhf.html>.

The first change concerns the Limited Rover category. The ARRL Programs and Services Committee accepted the VUAC's proposal that Limited Rovers may now compete on only the four lowest frequency bands available for any given contest. For the January, June and September VHF Contests, this means 6 and 2 meters, as well as 222 and 432 MHz. For the August UHF Contest, this means 222, 432 and 902 MHz and 1.2 GHz. QSOs on other bands can be made by Limited Rovers, but they will not count toward the Limited Rover's score and will be considered a checklog. "We have already applied changes to the log-checking software that will adjust the Limited Rover's QSOs above the lowest four bands to zero-point QSOs," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X.

The second change concerns the ARRL UHF Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/uhf.html>. For the first time, Kutzko said, the ARRL Awards Committee voted to add Club Competition to the UHF Contest, beginning in 2009. "This is something that the VHF/UHF community has been asking for for quite some time," he explained. "The VUAC made their recommendations and the Awards Committee agreed. We hope to see VHF/UHF clubs across the country help increase participation and get involved with this fun contest."

According to Kutzko, these changes come on the heels of the redesign of the June VHF QSO Party Plaque Program. "In the past," he said, "plaques in the June VHF QSO Party have been awarded for first through tenth place in any category, regardless of location. As any VHFer will tell you, there are radical differences in propagation from one part of the country to another. We decided the plaque program needed to be based on Division, just like every other plaque program that the ARRL offers, not position in the standings."

Kutzko explained that the Programs and Services Committee agreed with this recommendation and voted in favor of it: "This change in structure recognizes the Division-level competition that takes place in the June VHF QSO Party, sometimes under conditions of little to no propagation."

June VHF QSO Party plaque sponsorships are available for all entry categories in all 15 ARRL Divisions, Canada, Mexico and DX. If you or your club is interested in sponsoring a plaque ($75, including shipping charges), contact ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, via e-mail <kx9x@arrl.org> and he will help you find a plaque that's right for you or your club to sponsor.

==> JEFF BEALS, WA4AW, APPOINTED SOUTHEASTERN DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR

With the approval of the ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, appointed Southern Florida Assistant Section Manager Jeff Beals, WA4AW, as Vice Director in the Southeastern Division, effective June 1. Beals replaces Sandy Donohue, W4RU, who passed away last month <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/05/10805/?nc=1>.

An Extra class licensee, Beals was first licensed in the early 1960s as WN2OUK. Beals -- who splits his time between Royal Palm Beach, Florida and Dothan, Alabama -- has served as Southern Florida Assistant Section Manager since 2002. Beals has also held appointments as Section Emergency Coordinator, Affiliated Club Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, Technical Specialist and District Emergency Coordinator.

"I am deeply honored to be chosen by President Harrison to serve as Vice Director of the Southeastern Division," Beals told the ARRL. "I am looking forward to working with Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, to provide quality service and representation to the members of the Southeastern Division. I feel that my years of service in the ARRL Field Organization provide me with a unique outlook on what our members expect of our League. My ability to listen and learn from them will assist Greg and myself to provide the representation they have come to expect from the Southeastern Division."

Sarratt said that was "proud" that Beals was chosen to be the new Southeastern Division Vice-Director: "Jeff has a heart for Amateur Radio. He and I have worked together at many hamfests in the Southeastern Division and I look forward to many more. Please join me in welcoming Jeff as Southeastern Division Vice Director."

Beals said he would be "remiss if I didn't mention the many years of friendship and tutelage given to me by former Southeastern Director Frank Butler, W4RH, and Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU (SK). Their years of service to the League and to Amateur Radio are much appreciated by me and the many members of the Division with whom they came in contact."

Beals was a long-time friend of Donahue's. "I knew Sandy for more than 25 years," he told the ARRL upon Donahue's passing. "He was very, very devoted to Amateur Radio, especially the public service side: Emergency Communications, traffic handling and helping out wherever and whenever he could. We had a lot in common."

Beals counts emergency communications support, liaison with served agencies, radio club liaison and support, classic Amateur Radio operation and restoration, and training of Section volunteers as just some of his Amateur Radio activities. "I am always promoting Amateur Radio and the ARRL at community events, and I attend many club meetings, functions and hamfests throughout the Division," he said. "I am a participant in a pilot project to provide membership support to members of the ARRL Southern Florida Section; this project has since grown to encompass the entire Southeastern Division." He also holds commendations from the State of Florida for his communications support during

Hurricanes Andrew, Frances, Jean and Katrina.

"During my tenure as the Southern Florida Section SEC, President Harrison appointed me to serve on the National Emergency Response Planning Committee. One of the challenges facing many of our SFL Section members -- as well as the rest of our nation -- is the ability to construct an effective antenna system in communities governed by covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/ccr.html>," Beals explained. "I am -- and always have been -- a staunch supporter of any bill in Congress, such as HR 2160 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>, to effect such change in these most restrictive regulations that prevent hams from providing needed public service communications, as well as their enjoyment of Amateur Radio.

Beals is a Life Member of the ARRL, Quarter Century Wireless Association and the Antique Wireless Association; he is a Senior Grade member of the Radio Club of America and the ARRL A-1 Operator Club <http://www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/>. He is Past President of the Fort Myers and West Palm Beach Amateur Radio Clubs and current member of the Palms West ARC, North Florida ARS, Wiregrass ARC, OOTC, the Florida and Alabama Contest Groups and the Florida East Coast DX Club.

==> FIRST 2009 ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE IN THE BOOKS

The week of May 25 saw the completion of the first 2009 Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. According to Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, about half of the participants came from the host institution, the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) in Roswell <http://www.nmmi.edu>. "The NMMI was an exceptional venue for the Teachers Institute and the school's chaplain, Major Dan Musgrave, WD8RMG, proved to be a gracious host, as well as one of the NMMI faculty participants," Spencer recounted.

Spencer said that the Teachers Institute curriculum -- four days of intensive in-service training in basic electronics, the science of radio, bringing space technology into the classroom, microcontroller programming and basic robotics -- continues to be refined. "One participant, a Colonel, commented that the Teachers Institute far exceeded her expectations, and that she could not even imagine the amount of material that was covered during the course," Spencer said. Another participant -- a Lieutenant Colonel who is the NMMI choir and band director -- quickly made connections between the operation of the musical instruments he instructs (and his cadet students use) and the five building blocks of radio that are presented in the Science of Radio unit.

"This connection between content areas -- in this case music and electronics -- is an example of what the program and the Teachers Institutes are all about," Spencer said. "This instructor will now be in

a better position to help his students to make their own connections between the subjects they are studying in school. These connections make learning relevant."

The next two Teachers Institutes -- in Rocklin, California and in Tucson, Arizona -- are scheduled for this coming week, marking the first time that two Teachers Institutes have been held at the same time. Spencer and Teachers Institute Instructor Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, plan to connect the two sessions by making a satellite contact using AO27. "This will demonstrate to participants how amateurs connect with each other via satellites," Spencer explained, "making a practical demonstration of the Space in the Classroom unit."

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of May.

The ARRL solicited support for HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818>.

An ARRL Freedom of Information Act request forced the FCC to release the redacted portions of the studies on which they relied with regard to their Broadband over Powerline (BPL) rulemaking in 2004 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/08/10811/?nc=1>.

The ARRL hosted their 2009 National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention on May 15-17 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/16/10823/?nc=1>.

The ARRL honored those who donated more than $1000 to the League in 2008 with a reception just prior to the 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention. Three new members of the ARRL's Maxim Society <http://www.arrl.org/development/maxim.html> were introduced at the reception <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/27/10839/?nc=1>.

The ARRL's Programs and Services Committee approved two changes to ARRL VHF and UHF contests <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/29/10847/?nc=1>.

The first of seven ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology took place in Roswell, New Mexico <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/02/10852/ >.

The ARRL Public Relations Committee honored three Public Information Officers for going above and beyond in ensuring that the role of Amateur Radio is explained to media and the public, especially in unanticipated situations in the field <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/14/10813/?nc=1>. The Committee also introduced the new PR-101 course <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0133> at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/15/10817/?nc=1>.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, presented former ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, with the ARRL President's Award at Dayton <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/27/10838/?nc=1>.

W1AW and W1HQ received some new antennas during their semi-annual tower inspection <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/20/10827/?nc=1>.

At month's end, the ARRL had awarded 269 Triple Play Awards <http://www.arrl.org/awards/#tripleplay> since the award's inception January 1, 2009
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/28/10843/?nc=1>.

The ARRL participated in the 2009 Maker's Faire in San Mateo, California <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/26/10835/?nc=1>.

Mel Parkes, NM7P, of Layton, was re-elected as the Utah Section Manager. Dan Pruitt, AE6SX, is the new Section Manager in the San Joaquin Valley Section. The Rhode Island, Maryland-DC, West Texas, Nevada, Northern New Jersey and New Hampshire Sections will keep their incumbent Section Managers <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/21/10829/?nc=1>.

The current 7Z1CQ operation in Saudi Arabia has been approved for DXCC credit <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8964>.

==> PRESIDENT OBAMA TO RENOMINATE FCC COMMISSIONER ROBERT MCDOWELL FOR NEW TERM

On Tuesday, June 2, President Barack Obama announced that he will renominate current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell for another term <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/President-Obama-Announces-His-Intent-to-Nominate-Robert-McDowell-for-Another-Term-at-the-FCC/>. McDowell, a Republican, was first nominated by President George W. Bush and sworn into office in June 2006, filling the unexpired term of Republican Kathleen Q. Abernathy. McDowell, whose present term expires June 30, 2009, would need to be confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners' terms are five years long.

According to the White House, McDowell has collaborated with his fellow Commissioners to develop and establish American communications policy covering the wireless, media and Internet industries, as well as international policy matters. He has worked to create rules governing wireless auctions, establish a framework for unlicensed use of TV "white spaces" spectrum, develop incentives to encourage the development of new broadband technologies, review public interest benefits as part of the approval process of proposed corporate mergers and adjudicate enforcement proceedings.

McDowell brings to the FCC approximately 16 years of private sector experience in the communications industry. Immediately prior to joining the Commission, McDowell was a senior executive for a trade association representing competitive facilities-based telecommunications service

providers. He has served on the North American Numbering Council (NANC) <http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/cpd/Nanc/> and on the Board of Directors of North American Numbering Plan Billing and Collection (NBANC) <http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/cpd/numbering/nbc.html>.

Acting Chairman Michael Copps congratulated McDowell on his renomination, saying he was "truly delighted that he will continue on as a fellow Commissioner. Since becoming Acting Chairman several months ago, I appreciate more than ever Rob's collegiality, his openness, his creative intellect, and the deep sense of purpose he brings to his work. I especially want to thank him for all the talent and energy he has brought to our work on next week's DTV transition. He has traveled near and far to help consumers prepare and he has done an outstanding job in helping us deploy an extensive DTV Call Center operation. I look forward to our continuing work together as we tackle the many tough communications issues confronting the Commission and the country."

McDowell was graduated cum laude from Duke University in 1985. After serving as chief legislative aide to a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, he attended the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. Upon his graduation from law school, McDowell joined the Washington, DC office of Arter & Hadden, a national law firm, now closed, that was based in Cleveland. McDowell is admitted to practice law before the courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and the US Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia, First, Fourth and Fifth Circuits, as well as the US Supreme Court. He lives in Fairfax County, Virginia on his family's farm with his wife Jennifer and their three children.

==> NASA, NOAA RELEASES NEW PREDICTIONS FOR SOLAR CYCLE 24

An international panel of experts -- led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and sponsored by NASA -- has released a new prediction for the next solar cycle: Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a below-average number of sunspots <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/29may_noaaprediction.htm?list1300638>. "If our prediction is correct, Solar Cycle 24 will have a peak sunspot number of 90, the lowest of any cycle since 1928 when Solar Cycle 16 peaked at 78," said panel chairman Doug Biesecker of NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center. This report clarifies a NOAA report from May 2009 that stated that Solar Cycle 24 would bring "90 sunspots per day on average" <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090508_solarstorm.html>.

The latest forecast revises a prediction issued in 2007 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/01/07/100/>. At that time, a sharply divided panel believed solar minimum would come in March 2008 followed by either a strong solar maximum in 2011, or a weak solar maximum in 2012. "It turns out that none of our models were totally correct," said Dean Pesnell of the Goddard Space Flight Center and NASA's lead representative on the panel. "The Sun is behaving in an unexpected and very interesting way."

In 2007, experts varied in their predictions on when the solar cycle would peak and how strong it would be. In April of that year, NOAA, in coordination with an international panel of solar experts, predicted that the next 11-year cycle of solar storms "would start in March 2008, plus or minus six months, and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012" <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/SolarCycle/>. In the cycle forecast issued in April 2007, half of the panel predicted a "moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicted a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. The group is evenly split between a strong and a weak cycle."

At a meeting of the American Geophysical Union in San Francisco in December 2007, David Hathaway of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, along with colleague Robert Wilson, said that Solar Cycle 24 "looks like it's going to be one of the most intense cycles since record-keeping began almost 400 years ago." They said they believe the next solar maximum should peak around 2010 with a sunspot number of 160, plus or minus 25. "This would make it one of the strongest solar cycles of the past 50 years -- which is to say, one of the strongest in recorded history." Four of the five biggest cycles on record have come in the past 50 years. "Cycle 24 should fit right into that pattern," Hathaway said.

Right now -- June 2009 -- the solar cycle is in a valley, the deepest of the past century. In 2008 and 2009, the Sun showed some of the lowest sunspot counts on record, as well as weak solar winds and a low solar irradiance, going more than two years without a significant solar flare. "In our professional careers, we've never seen anything quite like it," Pesnell said. "Solar minimum has lasted far beyond the date we predicted in 2007."

In recent months, however, Pesnell said that the Sun has begun to show some small signs of life: Small sunspots and "proto-sunspots" are popping up with increasing frequency. Enormous currents of plasma on the Sun's surface are gaining strength and slowly drifting toward its equator. Radio astronomers have detected a tiny but significant uptick in solar radio emissions. All these things are precursors of an awakening Solar Cycle 24 and form the basis for the panel's new, almost unanimous forecast.

Pesnell cautioned optimism, telling the ARRL that there is an "error bar of +/- 20." This means Solar Cycle 24's sunspot number could be as high as 110, or as low as 70. "Based upon my own personal research, I don't think we'll see 90 [sunspots in Solar Cycle 24]," he said.

When asked if such a low number foretold the beginnings of a Maunder Minimum <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maunder_minimum>, Pesnell said that a Maunder Minimum takes several cycles to appear: "Sunspots [in solar cycles] leading up to the Maunder Minimum took several cycles to disappear. I really can't predict what will happen in Solar Cycle 25.

What we're seeing now is something that looks like a sunspot, but it looks as if someone has come along and 'stomped' on it, creating a multitude of little things. We don't have a name for this and we've never seen anything like it before."

There could be more surprises, panelists acknowledge -- and more revisions to the forecast. "Go ahead and mark your calendar for May 2013," Pesnell said. "But use a pencil." -- Some information from NASA

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "In the Sun he sang with cheerful heart" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: It is so great to see some real Solar Cycle 24 sunspot activity this week. Instead of a phantom that pops into view one day and is gone the next, we have sunspot 1019, which has persisted for five days so far. Emerging on Sunday, May 31, the resulting daily sunspot numbers through June 4 are 15, 23, 19, 17 and 17. This is a Solar Cycle 24 spot, and at high latitude too -- an indication of a new cycle spot. Meanwhile, the low solar wind and quiet geomagnetic conditions continue. Currently, spot 1019 is about to fade, although it is still a few days away from crossing the eastern limb to the far side. NOAA and the US Air Force expect geomagnetic conditions to continue to be quiet, and a planetary A index around 5 is predicted until June 29. Predicted solar flux values are 72 for June 5-6, then 74 on June 7-13. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions June 5-8, quiet to unsettled June 9-10 and quiet again June 11. Sunspot numbers for May 28-June 3 were 0, 0, 0, 15, 23, 19 and 17 with a mean of 10.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.7, 68.2, 68.5, 68.5, 72.5, 71.9 and 72.5 with a mean of 70. The estimated planetary A indices were 7, 5, 3, 3, 3, 2 and 4 with a mean of 3.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 4, 2, 3, 2, 2 and 4 with a mean of 3.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Allingham's "A Singer" <http://www.sonnets.org/allinghm.htm#005>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the SEANET Contest, IARU Region 1 Field Day and the Alabama QSO Party are all June 6-7. Next week is the ARRL June VHF QSO Party on June 13-15. The Asia-Pacific Sprint is June 13. The GACW WWSA CW DX Contest and the ANARTS WW RTTY Contest are June 13-14. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 28, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 10, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Mal Eiselman, NC4L, Wins May QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for May is Mal Eiselman, NC4L, for his article "Troubleshooting Radios." Congratulations, Mal! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the June issue by Tuesday, June 30.

* Operation Approved for DXCC Credit: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the HZ1EA operation in Saudi Arabia has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk <dxcc@arrl.org > and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said. "Once completed, if you have an account in Logbook of the World (LoTW), the update will be posted to your account" <http://www.arrl.org/lotw >.

* More 2009 Field Day T Shirts on the Way: The 2009 ARRL Field Day T shirts are a huge hit <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-0515 >, topping demand from previous years. "While the current supply of Field Day shirts has stocked out, we expect to be re-supplied before the end of next week -- in time to fulfill all orders to clubs and individuals," said ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "We appreciate everyone's patience and apologize for shipping delays." This year's logo captures the spirit of Field Day in camp-like fashion. The artwork depicts a woodland outdoor scene on a green-colored shirt. The logo was designed by ARRL Graphic Arts Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, and Senior Technical Illustrator David Pingree, N1NAS. "We've received some really nice compliments about the design -- and a couple of funny remarks asking why we left out the grizzly bear," Inderbitzen said. 2009 ARRL Field Day is June 27-28 <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday >.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL

cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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248. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-07 02:54:50 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <b84c82a5-e5bc-4468-84c6-2b70f27ab3fa@q16g2000yqg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1958

On Jun 1, 3:00 pm, K HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
> <N...@AOL.COM> wrote:
> > I agree 100%. The problem is, where should the line be drawn?
>
> For "phone" and "morse" competitions,
> my line for the "Basic Radioman"
> category would be drawn to require
> all "exchange information" (ie, call
> sign, serial, zone, or whatever other
> data is required to score a valid
> exchange) be discovered and copied
> off the air aurally by the operator.

I agree 100%. That prohibits things like code readers, database lookups, etc.

> (I
> hold that radiosport contesting is
> one of the predominate "technology
> drivers" in Amateur Radio, and that
> station/equipment/antenna engineering
> benefits greatly from this sub-hobby.)

I think that's very true, particularly in the areas of performance improvement in areas such as receiver dynamic range.

> It would allow them to use whatever labor
> saving devices appropriate to keep
> their logs (ie., computer logkeeping).

However, it would place certain limitations on those devices. (See below)

> It would not allow "discovery" technologies
> like spotting networks or
> Skimmer.

Agreed - in fact, it would disallow code readers and voice recognition of any sort, right?

> It would not allow software that "auto-populates" any portion of the
> required exchange. (ie., deduce from the call sign and
> automatically populate the zone in CQWW)

I know of at least one computer logger where, if you work a station on one band/mode, the exchange received on that band/mode is automatically

entered in the appropriate places if you work the same station again on another band/mode. You can override it, but it saves having to copy the exchange more than once from a given station.

> It would not allow pre-built database
> lookups, like "super-check-partial" to
> validate or "fill" callsigns copied off the air.
>
What about databases built from the log, in the same fashion as above? My guess is that would be disallowed too.

IOW, the basic concept would be:

YOU find 'em YOU work 'em YOU log 'em

Now for a devil's advocate question....

It seems from the above that the idea is to protect the radioman skill of receiving by not allowing it to be automated (code reader/voice recognition) nor circumvented (database).

But isn't transmitting as much a radioman skill as receiving? If so, shouldn't automated sending devices (code message generators, voice 'keyers', etc.) be prohibited too?

I realize that many CW contesters can go for many QSOs without ever touching a key by means of stored messages in the computer logger that auto-generate CQs, the exchange, etc. But I suspect that some folks would ask why the line is drawn so that automated transmitting is OK but not automated receiving.

73 de Jim, N2EY

249. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-07 04:00:05 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <790s9qF1neeejU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1959

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

> Now for a devil's advocate question....
>
> It seems from the above that the idea is to protect the radioman skill
> of receiving by not allowing it to be automated (code reader/voice
> recognition) nor circumvented (database).
>
> But isn't transmitting as much a radioman skill as receiving? If so,
> shouldn't automated sending devices (code message generators, voice
> 'keyers', etc.) be prohibited too?
>
> I realize that many CW contesters can go for many QSOs without ever
> touching a key by means of stored messages in the computer logger that
> auto-generate CQs, the exchange, etc. But I suspect that some folks
> would ask why the line is drawn so that automated transmitting is OK
> but not automated receiving.

Logically, if you demand no automation, then the restriction should extend to sending. But if you take this to its logical conclusion, you would need to require a hand key.

I actually do not agree that transmitting is as much a radioman skill as receiving, or at least not as difficult to master, and for this reason it does not particularly bother me to allow assistance in that portion of the contest. A contributing factor is that the amount of technology required is much less to handle the sending part -- a fancy memory keyer is less formidable than a high-speed computer with a complex program to decode cw out of a pileup. Perhaps it's because we've been using keyers for decades, but effective computer decoding of cw is relatively recent.

73, Steve KB9X

250. Re: The robot won

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-07 12:33:18 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <37a1e80e-0345-4bd4-b25d-b5335e4f4e58@g37g2000yqn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1960

On Jun 7, 12:00 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@AOL.COM wrote:
> > Now for a devil's advocate question....
>
> > But isn't transmitting as much a radioman
> > skill as receiving? If so,
> > shouldn't automated sending devices
> > (code message generators, voice
> > 'keyers', etc.) be prohibited too?
>
> >. But I suspect that some folks
> > would ask why the line is drawn
> > so that automated transmitting is OK
> > but not automated receiving.
>
> Logically, if you demand no automation, then
> the restriction should
> extend to sending. But if you take this to
> its logical conclusion, you
> would need to require a hand key.
>
It's not about eliminating automation as much as about requiring skills
specific to radio operating.

IMHO, a straight key, sideswiper, bug, or paddles would be OK because
you still need Morse Code sending skills to use any of them. But a
keyboard or message generator would be disallowed because they do not
require knowing how to send Morse Code.

> I actually do not agree that transmitting is as
> much a radioman skill as
> receiving, or at least not as difficult to master, and for this reason
> it does not particularly bother me to allow assistance
> in that portion
> of the contest.

But it's not just about how difficult something is. Rather it's about
whether something is a "radioman skill" or not.

Of course in the end any such rules will have an arbitrary element to
them. My point is simply that there are bound to be disagreements as to
what actually constitutes a "radioman skill" and what doesn't.

I would really like to see such a category added to the major contests.
Would be interesting to see how many would enter it, and how well

they'd do.

73 de Jim, N2EY

251. Jesus was a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-09 00:48:42 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h0kbgs$6jh$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1961

In the gospel of Luke Chapter 14, verses 28-30, He admonishes us: "For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first and counts the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish."

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

252. Re: Jesus was a Ham?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-09 15:53:10 UTC
From: Howard Lester <heylester@dakotacom.net>
Message-ID: <h0lvlfqre1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1962

"K HB" wrote
> In the gospel of Luke Chapter 14, verses 28-30, He admonishes us: "For
> which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first and counts
> the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he
> has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it
> begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to
> finish."

Thus my preferenceth for the simplicity of the dipole. It is something I can affordeth and is far more cost effectiveth than a Babeling tower.

;-)

N7SO

253. Re: YHOTY

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-12 05:59:27 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090611214751.02aa8308@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1963
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Ive onpassed your edorsement to the committee. They mnake the decisuon
-- not me.

RE: HSV. Obviously you are on Northwest. Enjoy the RJ's and/or
DC9's.

Im not going. To expensive -- even on Southwest to BHM. Don will make
the presentation for us this year.

de Bill P.

At 09:34 PM 6/11/2009 -0500, you wrote:
>Bill,
>I was going to put in a my 2c worth...there is a guy who is in the running
>for YHOTY, KE5GDB, Andrew from Houston, TX. I was not aware he had been
>nominated until recently. He is often in our chatroom for W5KUB's helmet
>cam and year round. This kid is EXACTLY the kind of young ham you
>want. He is smart, 15, loves radio and is active on satellites, HF, you
>name it. I even worked him during the Museum Ships HF operation last
>weekend and didn't know it was him at the mike. He is a great op...any
>questions, just ask me, but I think he is your guy!! Just look at his QRZ
>page. Also, he fixes W5KUB's webcam / chat page now as well, for hte big
>Dayton and Huntsville live cam/chat sessions. Let me know what is going
>on. I got my tickets on NW from OMA-MEM-HSV.
>73, Joe K0NEB

254. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1661 - June 12 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-12 12:29:15 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090611225724.017ddb20@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1964
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1661 - June 12 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1661 with a release date of
Friday, June 12th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Navy MARS asks permission to close
operation. Will the government say yes? Also, President Obama says
that part of being prepared is having a weatherproof radio at hand,
WB4APR proposes a new 29 to 24 MHz high frequency satellite, the FCC
T-hunts down an alleged shopping mall jammer, Australia tests its first
digital Amateur Television repeater and Toshiba brings the Morse code
to texting. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report
number 1661 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

The days of Navy and Marine Corps MARS may be fast coming to an end.
This, according to a directive released by the commander of the Naval
Network Welfare Command. One that says that this branch of the
Military Affiliate Radio Services will terminate all operations at the
end of this summer. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has
the details:

--

According to the May 16th directive, the commander of the Naval Network
Welfare Command has decided to sunset the Navy's MARS mission effective
September 30th. Sunset in this case means to terminate and disband.
As a result, the Naval Network Welfare Command has requested that all
military and civilian positions be deleted and left un-funded after
that date.

Navy and Marine MARS is a joint operation. One of the consequence of
this decision is that all Navy MARS Area Directors have been ordered to
close their offices no later than the September 30th deadline. The
directive also says that none of the equipment located at Area Director
Stations can be transferred to Navy MARS members. It can however be
given over to other official Navy organizations to help start or equip
military recreation stations. However, approval for this will be on a
case by case basis.

And what about all the radio gear out there in the hands of MARS members? Also, the equipment that may have been disposed of over the years by the families of Silent Key Navy MARS operators? Will the Navy be seeking its return? As we go to air, nobody we have contacted seems to have any answers to these and other questions related to the imminent termination of U-S Navy MARS.

There is one caveat. As you are likely aware, all three MARS services operate under the mandate of the Department of Defense and that mandate is still valid. While the Army and Air Force have stated their desire to continue their respective MARS programs, only the Navy has requested to opt out. For that to happen requires approval up the Department of Defense chain of command. If that permission is not given the Navy says that its MARS program will continue, but without any Area Directors.

More on this as we get it. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

According to Wikipedia dot com, the organization that led to the Military Affiliate Radio System was first called the Army Amateur Radio System or A-A-R-S. It was created in November 1925 by a few dedicated pioneers in the United States Army Signal Corps led by Captain Thomas C. Rives. His original intent was to enlist the talents of volunteer amateur radio operators as a ready source who could train soldiers in the then new technology of radio, as well as pursuing radio research and development to improve radio equipment within the Army. This support would be particularly useful during the mobilization of forces by providing a pool of already trained radio operators. Their efforts were very successful, and the present-day MARS program is the direct descendant of the work of those early pioneers. (K1AA, KZ1Z, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: PRESIDENT OBAMA SAYS TO BE PREPARED

United States President Barack Obama has urged residents of hurricane inclined areas to take responsibility for their own safety and start planning now.

Following a recent disaster preparedness briefing at the Federal Emergency Management Agency the president said that individuals should be ready with a supply of nonperishable food, water and first aid kits. This, to wait out any emergency that might hit their area. The leader of the free world added that it is also essential to have at least one waterproof radio that will work in the rain.

At his press briefing the president noted that it is state governments have the primary responsibility for preparing for and responding to disasters. But he added that all the resources of the federal government are there to back them up. (Published news reports)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: 28 TO 24 MHz HAMSAT PROPOSED

A satellite with a 29 to 24 MHz linear transponder is being proposed by the ham who brought the world A-P-R-S. Bob Bruninga, WB4APR,, who helped in the development of a number of successful amateur radio satellites has floated a proposal for a satellite with the odd combination of frequencies for the on-orbit linear transponder.

In an e-mail to the AMSAT Bulletin Board WB4APR says that consideration is being given to a an HF transponder for the next long range CUBESAT mission planning. It can have three modes, These are APRS at 1200 baud for command and control and APRS on 145.825; a PSK-31 multi-user SSB uplink on 29 MHz and FM down link on 145.825 and lastly the already mentioned 29 MHz uplink and 24 MHz downlink SSB transponder

Bruninga adds that they are looking for someone in the AMSAT community that wants to contribute to the HF transponder design. (WB4APR)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL FOUNDER TO VISIT ISS

The British Broadcasting Company reports that the founder of the performance group Cirque du Soleil will visit the International Space Station in September. According to the news service, 49 year old Guy Laliberte will travel to the International Space Station on a Russian Soyuz transport vehicle.

Laliberte trip to the International Space Station is estimated to cost at least $25 million dollars. The Quebec-based billionaire will become the seventh private citizen to visit the orbital outpost since April 2001. No word yet if he plans to obtain an amateur licensee and operate from space as all past space adventurers have.

And for those of you who do not know that Cirque du Soleil means, its French for Circus of the Sun. You can read the full BBC news story at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8083336.stm) (Southgate)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THE ANSWER IS BLOWEN IN THE WIND

The UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom has published a report dealing with the effects of interference caused by power generating Wind Farms turbines. This, to Ultra High Frequency and Super High Frequency communications.

The report was prepared by ERA Technology Ltd and Aegis Systems Ltd. It describes a technical study in which a series of measurements were carried out with regard to the presence of wind turbines near to wireless services.

Some of their findings include the fact that a single turbine can produce measured fades as large as 3 dB for UHF scanning telemetry

links and 2 dB for fixed links operating between 1.5 and 18 GHz. This, when the turbine is lying on the transmitter-receiver path. Also established is that a wind farm with seventeen turbines can produce measured fades as large as 10 to 15 dB for 1% of the time when the wind farm is lying on the transmitter-receiver path.

The purpose of the study was to enhance understanding of the effects of wind turbines near to wireless Services. The full text of this propagation study and report in PDF Format is available at http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/licensing/classes/fixed/Windfarms/rf_ measurement/windfarm_report.pdf (ANS)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KC6OCA repeater serving Lake Isabella California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC T-HUNTS DOWN SHOPPING MALL RADIO SYSTEM JAMMER

Every once in a while, the FCC hits a home run with outstanding direction finding work leading to an important find. The case of Kevin Bondy, the licensee of station WQGX752 who now faces a $24,000 fine is one of those. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the rest of the story:

--

According to the CGC communicator, the case involves a dedicated and industrious jammer causing willful and repeated interference to the radio channels licensed to The Oaks Shopping Center in Thousand Oaks, California . Its also the story of an even more dedicated FCC agent determined to get his man and the FCC release has the full story.

Thousand Oaks is an affluent suburb about 45 miles West of downtown Los Angeles. And it was there the FCC alleges that Kevin Bondy tried to force a local shopping center off of its two-way radio channels for reasons not yet fully understood.

The story goes back to this past February 25th. That's when the Los Angeles FCC Office received a complaint from the security manager for The Oaks Shopping Center. He told the FCC that the malls communications systems 461.375, 462.525, 467.525 and 466.375 MHz were being jammed.

The next day an agent from the Enforcement Bureau's Los Angeles Office contacted the security manager. The security manager also told the agent that the rather brazen jammer had told shopping center to stop

using 461.375MHz which is the security repeater input frequency.

On March 5th the Los Angeles agent T-hunted down the source of pulsating signals on the 461.375 and 466.375 MHz channel pair. It was found to be a repeater located within a secured radio communications facility on Oat Mountain. That's a 3000 foot hilltop in the Santa Susana Mountains that 's very popular with two-way radio users.

While atop Oat Mountain the agent observed radio equipment which he found was the source of the pulsating signals and a beam antenna connected to it pointed in the direction of Thousand Oaks. There seemed no doubt that this set-up was intended to interfere with normal transmissions on the shopping centers frequencies,.

Fast forward to March 6th. The FCC agent was monitoring the 461.375 and 466.375 MHz channel pair in the vicinity of shopping center and again observed pulsating signals. Later that day, in consultation with personnel from The Oaks and the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, the Los Angeles agent came up with a plan to locate the person who source of the transmissions.

Personnel from the shopping center engaged unknown operator into a QSO. The FCC agent had instructed shopping center personnel to keep the subject talking for as long as possible so that he could a fix of the transmissions. They did, and it was during that contact that the jammer told the shopping center personnel that they had "plenty of warning" to vacate the frequencies as he demanded. The jammer then effectively shut down all operations on The Oaks radio systems by transmitting NOAA weather radio over every channel. The jamming station then reportedly said that he would gave The Oaks three weeks to vacate the frequencies. If the center refused, he told them that there would be more jamming to come. He also told the centers personnel that the reason for the jamming was -- and we quote: "we need the channel."

Meantime, the agent was hard at work T-Hunting and at approximately 7:30 p.m., he hit pay-dirt. This, when he found the originating source of the transmissions to be a vehicle located in the National Park Service parking structure across the street from the shopping center.

At this point the Ventura County Sheriff's Department secured the area and identified the subject as Kevin W. Bondy. The Los Angeles FCC agent identified himself to Bondy and asked to inspect the radio equipment in his vehicle. Bondy first refused, then agreed and then refused again. The agent explained that a refusal to allow an inspection could result in a fine. Bondy's refusal was witnessed by Ventura County Sheriff's Department deputies.

On March 9, 2009, the FCC agent revisited the radio communications facility on Oat Mountain. At that time he observed that the beam antenna had been removed and the interference to The Oaks radio systems

had ceased.

And now it has literally become time for Bondy to pay the proverbial piper. In its May 14th Notice of Apparent Liability issued to Bondy, the FCC says that his violations of the Communications Act warrant his being fined $24,000.

Bondy was given the usual 30 days to pay up or to file an appeal. Meantime, the Oaks shopping Center has been interference free thanks to the work of an unknown but very dedicated FCC agent.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

The penalties faced by Bondy might not end with just a proposed fine. The FCC can challenge the renewal of his licensee of station WQGX752 or any other FCC issued license he might hold. It could even order a license revocation hearing at an earlier date. The full FCC document is on-line at http://www.fcc.gov/eb/FieldNotices/2003/DOC-290813A1.html) (CGC, FCC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HELPING THOSE WHO REALLY NEED IT

"Helping Those Who Really Need It" is the title of an interesting article in the June issue of CQ Magazine dealing with the changing landscape of amateur radio emergency communications. Authored by former police and fire chief Jerry Boyd. N7WR, the article explains the way in which non government organizations such as hospitals, bus systems, schools and independent municipal agencies may be the new clients that will be looking to ham radio for assistance in coming days. Boyd points to the California-based Hospital Disaster Support Communications Service as an excellent example of a ham radio support group that serves a specific need. You can read the entire article beginning on page 52 of the June issue of CQ Magazine. Its on newsstands right now. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM HOLIDAYS: KIDS DAY 2009 - JUNE 20

The second Kids Day operating event of 2009 takes place on Saturday, June 20th. This, from 1800 to 2400 UTC.

According to the ARRL, Kids Day is an on-air event to encourage young people who may or may not yet be licensed to have fun with Amateur Radio. For those who do not hold a set of call letters, it's a chance to give them a bit of on-the-air experience and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own.

Kids Day also has an important adult purpose as well. For them, it's a chance for older hams to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with children in their area.

During Kids Day you simply open your heart and your ham station to the kids in your neighborhood and operate as much or as little as you like. All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. More info can be found at http://lists.contesting.com/mailman/listinfo/kids (ARRL, others)

**

YHOTY 2009: THE JUDGING IS TAKING PLACE

And speaking about youngsters, there will be an Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award presented this year after all. At the last minute a spurt of valid nominations was received and as we go to air the judging committee is beginning its deliberation process.

If things go as they usually do, we should know who this years honoree will be in or around mid-July. In the meantime, please do not contact Newsline asking who the person selected is. The committee work is independent of the editorial office and we find out who the person is only an hour or two before the winner is informed.

And what is and what isn't valid nomination you ask? Well those that said something like "-my 7 year old just got his Tech ticket so give him a radio." Those got tossed in the circular file. (YHOTY)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: OEM SUPPLIERS FEELING ECONOMIC PINCH

A shake-out is brewing among the world's top original equipment manufacturers. These are the folks known as O-E-M's that anonymously to make the latest cellphones, MP-3 players and even many two-way radios for big names such as Nokia, Sony, Dell, Apple and many others.

Sub-contract manufacturers produce much of the world's electronics, with collective revenue of $306 billion in 2008. But as growth dips into single-digits this year due to the worlds economic recession, and companies such as Celestica, Sanmina and Elcoteq are seeing their revenues drop as consumer stop buying and the companies they supply cutback on orders for new merchandise. This in turn can lead to consolidation among some of the top of these OEM manufacturers as the economy worsens and the publics desire for new electronic products continues to erode. (OEM Electronics News)

**

RETRO RADIO: WE5I ON THE AIR ON 6 METER AM

If you have an old 6 meter Gonset Communicator, Clegg 99'er or any other ancient 6 meter AM transceiver and a crystal for 50 point 4 Megacycles -- er -- Megahertz, then you might want to dust it off and

fire it up. This is because Graham Welch, WE5I, wants to talk to you using good old fashioned full carrier A.M..

With the summer 6 meter DX season fast approaching, Graham, who lives in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is on 50 point 4 daily from grid square E-M-15. He is listening for callers from anyone who wants to take the time to talk with middle-America on the Magic Band using A-M. He is also posting his operating schedule on the W6YX VHF Reflector and says that even if you do not hear him first to call him anyway. He just may be listening and waiting to hear your call. (VHF Reflector)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: AUSTRALIAN DIGITAL ATV FOLLOW-UP

A follow-up to our recent story about the Australian Amateur Television repeater that's converting to digital operation. Late word is that a June 7th test transmission made by the VE3RTV machine from a hilltop east of Melbourne went exceedingly well.

Reportedly, more than a half dozen V-K hams in and around the Melbourne area received the repeater signal totally noise free. The test transmitter used commercial quality DVT-B standard digital television boards made in Germany. Receivers were commonly used domestic Australian DTV-B converter boxes that were re-tuned to 446.5 MHz A-T-V frequency.

More on this story can be read in the news section of the Amateur Radio Victoria website www.amateurradio.com.au (AR Victoria)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ATLANTA HAMFEST AT 80

The Atlanta Hamfest will celebrate it's 80th anniversary on June 6th. This, with more than 20 exhibitors, a special event station, ham radio training and testing all crammed into one great day at Jim R. Miller Park in Marietta. Doors open at 8:00 a.m. local time. Enhancing the hamfest will be special event station W4DOC operating both voice and digital modes throughout the event. For more information and directions visit www dot atlantahamfest dot com on the World Wide Web. (N4BFR)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: PAPERS SOUGHT FOR AMSAT SPACE SYMPOSIUM

And a call for has gone out for papers to be presented at the 2009 AMSAT Annual Meeting and Space Symposium. Proposals for papers, symposium presentations and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the amateur satellite community. A tentative title of your presentation is required as soon as possible with final copy submitted by September 1st. This, for inclusion in the printed proceedings.

The dates of the symposium are October 9th to the 11th. The venue is the Four Points Sheraton Hotel at the Baltimore Washington Airport.

Abstracts and papers should be sent via e-mail to Dan Schultz, N8FGV. His e-mail is n8fgv (at) amsat (dot) org. (ANS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W4LAA TO RETIRE FROM NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT

Some names in the news. First is Paul Kangas, W4LAA, the co-anchor of "Nightly Business Report" on PBS. He has announced that he will step down at the end of the year, ending a 30-year tenure on the nation's most-watched business newscast.

Kangas told Radio World that he was leaving the anchor chair in part to reduce the pressure of the daily deadlines that come with a TV program. Now 72, he was hired to be a stock market commentator when the "Nightly Business Report" had its premiere in 1979. He became an anchor on the show in 1990. (RW)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: WA4AW NAMED NEW SOUTHEASTERN VICE DIRECTOR

Southern Florida Assistant Section Manager Jeff Beals, WA4AW, has been appointed Vice Director in the ARRL's Southeastern Division, effective June 1st.

Beals holds an Extra class licensee, and was first licensed in the early 1960s as WN2OUK. He splits his time between Royal Palm Beach, Florida and Dolthan, Alabama.

WA4AW has served as Southern Florida Assistant Section Manager since 2002. He has also held appointments as Section Emergency Coordinator, Affiliated Club Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, Technical Specialist and District Emergency Coordinator.

Beals replaces his longtime friend and Dolthan resident Sandy Donohue, W4RU, who passed away last month. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W8GSM AND W2GPS TO STEP DOWN FROM AMSAT-NA BOD

Gunther Meisse, W8GSM, and Rick Hambly, W2GPS, have said that neither plans to seek re-election to the AMSAT North America Board of Directors. This leaves only Barry Baines, WD4ASW and Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA trying for another term.

In addition to Baines and Glasbrenner, others seeking positions on the AMSAT board thus far are Anthony Monteiro, AA2TX, Bill Ress, N6GHZ and Alan Biddle, WA4SCA.

Valid nominations for the 2009 AMSAT Board of Directors elections must be received at the AMSAT office is no later than June 15th. An AMSAT North America director serves a 2 year term. (ANS)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: M0OBW ELECTED NEW RSGB PRES

And the UK's David Wilson, M0OBW, has been elected as the new president of the Radio Society of Great Britain. This, to serve for the 2010 to 2011 term.

Wilson currently holds positions of Emerging Technologies and RSGB Convention on the society's board . He is also very active in the RSGB-sponsored Train the Trainer program. (GB2RS)

**

ON THE AIR: CANADIAN GROUP CELEBRATES ASTRONOMY

On the air, word that Canada's Westcoast Amateur Radio Association will be QRV as VE7IYOA during the month of June. Their QTH is Victoria, British Columbia and they are operating to mark the International Year of Astronomy. Their main operating times will be on weekends ands and during the upcoming ARRL Field Day. QSL to VE7DAO. (WARA)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING THE ORIGINAL 13 US COLONIES

A special event to celebrate the 13 original colonies that be came the United States will be on the air from July 1st at 1300 U-T-C to July 5th at 04:00 U-T-C. According to KU2US. a full color certificate with a map with state flags of all the 1776 colony states will be available to each station who works one or more of the special event stations. Full details are at http://home.comcast.net/~dzabawa/ThirteenColonies.htm (via E-mail)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

The Vienna International Center Amateur Radio Club was on the air as 4U1WED on "World Environment Day. This year the center also celebrates its 30th anniversary and thus and outside Environment Day will use the call 4U30VIC from July until December. QSL cards for both calls should be sent via the bureau to 4U1VIC. (QRZ-DX)

**

DX

In D-X, F5JNE will be active from Belle-Ile-en-Mer between 16 and 24 June. Operation will be CW only on 40 and 20 meters, mainly in the evenings. QSL via F5JNE, direct or by the French REF Bureau.

K7BV will return to San Andres as 5J0BV between June 18th to the 29th. He will concentrate on 6 meter Sporadic E contacts but will also activate the high frequency bands as well QSL direct to K7BV via his QRZ.com address.

F6ITD, will be also be active from the same location between the 20th and 28th of June. Activity will be on many of the HF bands on SSB only. QSL via F6ITD.

G4KIU, has moved to Rarotonga and is operating as E51SC using SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and some CW on 80 through 10m. QSLs via bureau to G4KIU or direct to Nigel Peacock, PO Box 880, Rarotonga, Cook Islands via New Zealand. He is also uploading his log data to the Logbook to the World, but once a week.

8N5I will be on the air from Shikoku Island until June 15th. QSL via the JARL bureau.

W5YDX operating portable VP9 will be on Bermuda through June 24th. He plans to operate holiday style focussing on 20 and 17 meters using 100 watts and dipoles. QSL via W5YDX.

KJ4GNB is on Ascension Island and has been heard as ZD8DC in SSB on 20 meters. The length of his stay is not known. QSL cards should be sent via bureau to KJ4GNB.

Lastly, PF4T will be active as 8Q7TB from Embudu Island through June 25th. He's reportedly operating only SSB on 40 and 20 meters using an FT-897 and a G5RV antenna. QSLs direct or via bureau to PA0LEY.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: CLIQUE TO TEXTING USING MORSE

And finally this week, texting addicts will soon have a new plaything, but will need to learn C-W to use it. This, as Toshiba teams up with microprocessor manufacturer Intel to produce Clique. This is described as a handheld, thumb-operated communications device that uses only three keys produce Morse code for sending text messages.

A Toshiba spokesperson says that Morse was chosen as the communications medium because it is an easily learned and is ideally suited to the single-digit platform. She explained that the Morse code has been in use for more than 160 years which longer than any other electronic encoding system.

Earlier attempts to create a Morse-based texting device were stymied by the variable length of the Morse characters which made it hard to adapt to automated text conversion circuits. Toshiba's solution is the three keys. One is used for dots, another for dashes and the third that acts as a space-bar between letters. One tap separates letters while two taps go between words.

First released in Japan at the 2008 Microprocessor Forum, the Clique is the size and shape of a lollipop with the handle acting as a miniature joystick. Its reception in Japan has been described as fast and furious as early adopters added ï¿½Clique' to their armory of hand-held communications devices.

The Clique is not yet available in the United States but more about it is on-line at http://mhpbooks.com/mobylives/?pe35 (KZ1Z)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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255. NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-12 18:40:02 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <2fOdnamrVqadA6_XnZ2dnUVZ_qmdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1965

According to the Amateur Radio Newsline report #1661:

> RESTRUCTURING: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT
>
> The days of Navy and Marine Corps MARS may be fast coming to an end.
> This, according to a directive released by the commander of the Naval
> Network Welfare Command. One that says that this branch of the
> Military Affiliate Radio Services will terminate all operations at the
> end of this summer.

Although the Defense Department has the authority to cancel the "sunset"
for Navy/Marine Corps MARS, it's very unlikely, so we say "Farewell" to
a long chapter of Amateur Radio history.

That will be a sad day, not only for me, but for hundreds, or perhaps
thousands, of military and amateur operators. Those operators did an
important job for the Navy and the Marine Corps: MARS gave sailors and
Marines the chance to connect with their families from lonely overseas
posts, and brought laughter, hometown news, and peace-of-mind to
generations of servicemen.

I had the honor of being one of those operators. Although I was in the
Army, I ran the Navy-Marine Corts MARS station at Danang in 1971 and
1972, and I handled hundreds of phone patch calls for all comers, using
a KWM-2A, a 30L-1, and a Millen transmatch feeding a Log Periodic at
forty feet high. It was a labor of love for me: I had my regular duties
to perform during daylight, and then I'd crank up the Collins gear at night.

They says that the only constant is change. I wish it weren't so.

Bill W1AC
ex-N0LSI

256. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-12 18:58:57 UTC
From: Dick Grady AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <hb8535tfacnfkif4u81uu13g5bhvej464j@4ax.com>
Source record: 1966

On Fri, 12 Jun 2009 14:40:02 EDT, Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
wrote:

>According to the Amateur Radio Newsline report #1661:
>
>> RESTRUCTURING: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT
>>
>> The days of Navy and Marine Corps MARS may be fast coming to an end.
>> This, according to a directive released by the commander of the Naval
>> Network Welfare Command. One that says that this branch of the
>> Military Affiliate Radio Services will terminate all operations at the
>> end of this summer.
>
>Although the Defense Department has the authority to cancel the "sunset"
>for Navy/Marine Corps MARS, it's very unlikely, so we say "Farewell" to
>a long chapter of Amateur Radio history.
>
>That will be a sad day, not only for me, but for hundreds, or perhaps
>thousands, of military and amateur operators. Those operators did an
>important job for the Navy and the Marine Corps: MARS gave sailors and
>Marines the chance to connect with their families from lonely overseas
>posts, and brought laughter, hometown news, and peace-of-mind to
>generations of servicemen.
> [snip]
>They says that the only constant is change. I wish it weren't so.

Yup. The end of an era.
Our far-flung armed forces now have access to email and satellite
phones, so there is no need for hams to link them up with their
families.

Apparently, the Army MARS will survive. The MARS mission also has
changed, charged with relaying emergency messages via digital HF,
using PACTOR.
http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/about/mission.aspx

Dick, AC7EL

257. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 23 (Friday, June 12, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-12 19:56:26 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090612195553.A97FB30E18@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1967
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 23
June 12, 2009
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IN THIS EDITION:

* + Fun, Fresh Air, Friends and Food: It Must Be Time for ARRL Field Day!
* + Changes Coming for ARRL November Sweepstakes Contest Log Submissions
* + Alabama Hams Assist During Statewide Emergency Drill
* + Look for the July Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
* Join the Fun in the ARRL VHF QSO Party This Weekend
* + National Hurricane Center Predicts "Near-Normal" Hurricane Season
* + QEX: The July/August 2009 Issue
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Two New Co-sponsors Pledge Support for HR 2160
+ Don Tunstill, W4NO (SK)
Central States VHF Society Seeks Presentations for Annual Conference
From the DXCC Desk

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>.
==========================================================

==> FUN, FRESH AIR, FRIENDS AND FOOD: IT MUST BE TIME FOR ARRL FIELD DAY!

The 2009 ARRL Field Day will be here before you know it, so now is the time
to grab your rig, grab your friends, grab some grub and get ready to get
outside June 27-28 <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>. If you haven't yet started
planning for this year's Field Day, it's not too late -- Field Day packets
are available for download from the ARRL Web site
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2009-packet.pdf>.

ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, reminds clubs and groups that the
deadline to order exhibit kits and ham radio recruitment handouts is drawing
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near. "We need to have all orders for kits and brochures no later than Wednesday, June 17. If we have your order by then, we will be able to package your order and get it to you in time for Field Day. Any orders received after June 17 will be fulfilled and they might make it to recipients before Field Day," he explained. Exhibit kits can be ordered online at no cost; there is a small shipping and handling fee <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/>.

If you are looking for a Field Day site to attend, or are looking to publicize your Field Day site, be sure to check out the Field Day Site Locator <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>. For more information on this service, please check out the Locator Site Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/06/03/10021/?nc=1>. "More than 1000 Field Day sites have been registered on the Locator, with more being added every day," Henderson said.

ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air operating event in Amateur Radio. On the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of Amateur Radio operators gather for a demonstration of our service. Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event -- and all about fun!
"We all became hams for our own reasons," Henderson said. "Some of us were interested in public service and helping others in times of need. Many discovered the hobby as an outlet to their curiosity about electronics and communications. Still others joined our ranks because of the quest to meet new people and expand their own personal bank of knowledge. Whatever the reason you became an amateur, there is one compelling thread that brought us all together. It is as simple as can be: We became hams for the fun of the hobby!"

Henderson said that while Field Day serves a wide array of interests and purposes, "there is no greater 'fun-damental' goal for Field Day than to have fun! While it encompasses a broad range of Amateur Radio interests -- CW, Phone, Digital, emergency preparedness, public service, satellites, recruitment, antennas, new and vintage equipment and so many more -- Field Day is, above all else, a chance for us to have some fun with our hobby."

Henderson reminded hams that fun is where you find it: "Some will discover the fun by operating overnight, building up their club's total number of QSOs. Others will never make a single Field Day contact, but will derive their fun by helping set up antennas and generators. The joy of sharing your radio knowledge with a newcomer will be fun for many old-timers, while other old-timers will experience the 'Field Day high' when they make their very first QSO using a new digital mode or via one of the Amateur Radio satellites. The camaraderie of the annual club Field Day picnic or covered dish supper will be a fun highlight for many, while still others will find the joy in the hobby by simply being able to spend a couple of hours from home on an otherwise busy weekend, tuning the bands and making a few contacts."

If you want to be one of the best-dressed hams at your Field Day event, be sure to pick up the 2009 ARRL Field Day T shirt, hat and pin

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?category=&words=field+day&SearchWords.x=0&SearchWords.y=0>. Featuring a woodsy, outdoor scene, these items are a great way to recognize your involvement in the excitement and fun of this annual operating event. ARRL is also offering Get On The Air (GOTA) pins <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=8911>. It's a great idea to have your GOTA station operators wear these attractive pins. Pins from previous Field Days are also available -- make your collection complete with this year's pin. According to ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, a new shipment of 2009 Field Day T shirts has just arrived, so be sure to order yours today.

==> CHANGES COMING FOR ARRL NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST LOG SUBMISSIONS

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest Manager Ken Adams, K5KA, said he and the ARRL Contest Branch intend to "dramatically reduce the timeframe for producing results that are available to all ARRL Sweepstakes participants." According to Adams, the contesting community has requested that results be made available more quickly. Currently, Sweepstakes results are published six months after the contest has taken place.

"To facilitate this request, we would like to make the 2009 ARRL Sweepstakes final results available on the Web in 60 days in the form of a PDF file," he said. "If this effort proves successful, we plan to shorten this window to 30 days in 2010. This PDF would simply be the scores in each category -- full write-ups and detailed analysis of the Sweepstakes contest would still appear in QST and on the Web at a later time."

To meet this aggressive schedule, Adams said that the log submission deadline will be reduced from 30 days to 15 days. For the 2009 Sweepstakes, the deadline for CW Sweepstakes logs will be 0300 UTC on Monday, November 23, 2009. The deadline for the Phone Sweepstakes will be 0300 UTC on Monday, December 7, 2009.

"The number of non-Cabrillo logs received at ARRL HQ must be reduced," Adams explained. "By receiving logs 15 days earlier, we can begin the log checking process that much faster, but we will we need your help on the paper log issue. In 2008, the ARRL Contest Branch received more than 300 paper logs for the Sweepstakes contests. These paper logs were converted to Cabrillo format by a dedicated, yet small, group of volunteers. This took several hundred person-hours of time."

Adams said that there are plans to contact as many paper log submitters as possible and point out resources they can use to generate Cabrillo logs: "I am asking that every club have a special project and meeting this year to insure that 100 percent of their members submit Cabrillo logs for Sweepstakes. If you have club members who don't have computers, please form your own volunteer teams to convert their logs after the contest. This would be a great excuse for a big post-Sweepstakes club pizza party, combining data entry with club camaraderie."

While the ARRL will never turn away a paper log, Adams said that the advantages of electronic log submission are critical to the success of the

accelerated presentation of the Sweepstakes results. "Numerous software contest loggers exist for Windows and DOS, including the free packages CT <http://www.k1ea.com/> and N1MM <http://pages.cthome.net/n1mm/>," he said. Entrants are also able to manually convert their own paper logs to a Cabrillo log at the WA7BNM Cabrillo Web site" <http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/arrlsscw_cab.php>.

"You, the members of the contesting community, have requested faster turnaround of contest results for some time," Adams said. "With every contester's help, we can achieve this goal of dramatically reducing the time between contest and results. We have identified several other areas we hope to improve in the future, such as simplified Web access for Sweepstakes information, historical log search capability, easy access to FAQs, records and the like. We will continue to work on those goals. Thank you for your continued participation and help with the ARRL November Sweepstakes, the greatest domestic contest out there."

==> ALABAMA HAMS ASSIST DURING STATEWIDE EMERGENCY DRILL

During the week of May 4-8, emergency responders and support personnel gathered in Robertsdale, Alabama for a communications interoperability training and full-scale exercise, sponsored by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security (ADHS) <http://www.homelandsecurity.alabama.gov/>. Gathering in a field near the Baldwin County Emergency Operations Center, responders came together to test the quality and effectiveness of communications between various State agencies and support personnel. The exercise simulated a Category 5 hurricane that entered Mobile Bay, causing damage throughout the state.

According to ARRL Alabama Section Manager Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, the Alabama DHS has come to recognize the role that Amateur Radio operators play in emergencies and natural disasters; based on this, the Alabama DHS chose to include Amateur Radio in the exercise. "During Hurricane Katrina, Amateur Radio volunteers played a key part in making sure that communications between agency personnel continued uninterrupted and the public received the help and the timely response needed in this type of catastrophic event," Isbell explained. ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) operators from SEMA Region 1 and other regions throughout Alabama were on site to support communications.

The Alabama Emergency Management Agency, the Alabama National Guard, the Alabama Department of Public Safety, Region IV of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <http://www.fema.org/>, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Virtual Alabama, Alabama Civil Air Patrol, local sheriffs' office, as well as eight Alabama Regional Communication vehicles also participated in the exercise.

ARRL Southeastern Division Director Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, together with Alabama Region 1 District Emergency Coordinator Patti Link, KI4JEO, worked diligently with both amateur volunteers and professional partner agencies to coordinate and facilitate the role of Amateur Radio during the exercise. According to Isbell, Sarratt was the liaison at the Incident Command Point,

while Link -- working in the Baldwin County EOC -- coordinated amateurs throughout the area, dispatching them with Alabama DHS Regional Communication vehicles and to other locations in the nine-county affected area. Isbell was dispatched to a mock reception center site 60 miles north of the incident, and Section Emergency Coordinator Les Rayburn, N1LF, manned the radio at the State Emergency Operations Center.

"Since the major hurricanes of recent years, the State of Alabama and the Southeast Region of FEMA have really accepted Amateur Radio as a prime player in any major disaster," Isbell told the ARRL. "SEC Les Rayburn has grown Alabama ARES from several independent groups into a well-organized first responder team. Amateur Radio is being accepted as a critical tool during times that the daily manpower and technical resources are stretched beyond their design."

Sarratt said that the Amateur Radio participants learned a lot during the week-long exercise: "This was a good test of the ARES processes and improvements in a full-scale exercise with other agencies since Katrina. Everyone shared and learned about each other's communications capabilities. The relationships built and lessons learned here are invaluable to the Amateur Radio Service."

==> LOOK FOR THE JULY ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The July issue of QST is jam-packed with the news and information today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Al Yerger, WA2EHI, shows you how to take advantage of the multiple leads on a parallel port to control all of your remote operations in his article "A Parallel Port Interface for Your Shack." Follow Richard Kriss, AA6VU, as he solves a pesky TVI problem at his home in Texas. ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, along with QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, give their take on the sights, sounds and smells -- as well as the new radio gear -- of the 2009 Dayton Hamvention in "Dayton DREAM Believer: The 2009 ARRL National Convention and Dayton Hamvention."

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, reviews Yaesu's VX-8R handheld transceiver. According to Price, "Yaesu incorporates GPS and APRS capabilities into its new top-of-the-line, feature-packed handheld." ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, reviews Array Solution's QSK-MASTER external QSK TR switch for HF amplifiers. Sumner said that the QSK-MASTER "offers owners of older RF power amplifiers a way to add flawless full break-in (QSK) operation without equipment modification."

If it's July, it must be time for the IARU HF World Championships <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/iaru.html>. This is a great opportunity to contact many stations all over the world, especially the headquarters station of IARU Member Societies, including W1AW. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, takes a look multipliers -- what are they, why are they important and how do they work -- in "This Month in Contesting." The results of the 2008 ARRL 10 Meter Contest, the 2009 ARRL RTTY Roundup and

the 2009 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral.

Of course, there are the usual columns you know and expect in July QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Field Organization Reports, Hamspeak and more. Look for your July issue in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> JOIN THE FUN IN THE ARRL VHF QSO PARTY THIS WEEKEND

VHF enthusiasts will be generating lots of RF on 6 meters and up this weekend (June 13-15 UTC) during the 2009 ARRL VHF QSO Party <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/june-vhf.html>. While many amateurs think of the VHF+ bands as a "local" band used primarily for public service, emergency communications or fun on FM repeaters, weak-signal VHF+ enthusiasts know better. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, even hams who have a modest station can work hundreds -- or even thousands -- of miles on the VHF bands during a good opening.

Kutzko is a big VHF enthusiast: "In my more than 25 years of Amateur Radio, weak-signal work on 6 and 2 meters remains the most fun and intriguing activity I do. There is nothing like a good VHF opening; with interesting propagation characteristics like sporadic-E, tropospheric ducting, aurora and even meteor scatter and moonbounce, VHF offers QSO opportunities that HF can never satisfy."

Kutzko said this weekend is a great time to try 6 or 2 meters. "The June VHF QSO Party occurs at the beginning of the summer sporadic-E season, and can produce strong openings on 6 meters and in some cases up to 2 meters," he said. There have been moderate openings on 6 meters in some part of the United States almost nightly for the last two weeks, and southern California enjoyed a brief sporadic-E opening on 2 meters into Texas this past Tuesday evening, over an average path of 1100 miles. "That's fun any way you slice it," Kutzko said. "Because of the contest, many stations will be on. This, coupled with the interesting propagation possibilities, makes for a great weekend."

Getting on the VHF bands is easy, he said. While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex (especially near large population centers), most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB; that means horizontally polarized antennas. You will also need a radio that can transmit in those modes. Most of the newer HF transceivers have 6 meters built in, and several come with 2 meters and 70 cm, too. "A dipole on 6 meters will work quite well during a decent opening," Kutzko said. "They're easy to make and less than 10 feet long. Throw it up in a tree as high as you can and you'll be in business. For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts." You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/other-v.html>, in the Antennas chapter of the

ARRL Handbook, or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of the ARRL Antenna Book.

Because VHF antennas are generally smaller than their HF counterparts, portable operation is easy. "You can operate from your favorite hilltop, camp site or any location with high terrain and make many QSOs," Kutzko said. All you need to know is the Maidenhead grid square of your operating location; this is the contest exchange. Find your Maidenhead grid square here <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/grid.html>.

For SSB QSOs on 6 meters, tune between 50.100-50.200 MHz; 50.125 is the W/VE calling frequency, so listen there for band openings. If the band starts to open up, move off the calling frequency and start working folks! Keep in mind that 50.100-50.125 is reserved for intercontinental QSOs, so don't transmit there unless you are trying to work DX. For the CW operators, you will find CW between 50.080-50.100 MHz. Activity on 2 meters will center around the calling frequency of 144.200. Again, monitor the calling frequency for band openings, but move off when activity starts to pick up. Kutzko advises that most activity on 2 meter SSB/CW will be found between 144.170-144.230 MHz, while 70 cm activity will center around 432.100 MHz.

"This weekend promises to be a tremendous amount of fun on the VHF and UHF bands so don't miss out!" Kutzko said. "All amateurs -- from Technicians to Extras, experienced VHF operators to the first-time VHF dabblers -- are welcome to participate." The ARRL June VHF QSO Party runs this weekend from 1800 UTC Saturday until 0300 UTC Monday (Saturday afternoon to Sunday evening for most of the US and Canada). Complete rules and entry forms may be found here. All logs must be e-mailed <JuneVHF@arrl.org> or postmarked no later than 0300 UTC Wednesday, July 15. If you have any questions about the ARRL June VHF QSO Party or any other ARRL contest, please contact the Contest Branch via e-mail <contest@arrl.org>.

==> NATIONAL HURRICANE CENTER PREDICTS "NEAR-NORMAL" HURRICANE SEASON

Forecasters with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are calling for a "near-normal" Atlantic hurricane season this year. In its initial outlook for the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season -- which runs from June 1-November 30 -- the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/> is calling for a 50 percent probability of a near-normal season, a 25 percent probability of an above-normal season and a 25 percent probability of a below-normal season. According to the CPC, global weather patterns are imposing a greater uncertainty in the 2009 hurricane season outlook than in recent years.

Forecasters say there is a 70 percent chance of having nine to 14 named storms, of which four to seven could become hurricanes, including one to three major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5). Tropical systems acquire a name -- the first for 2009 will be Ana -- upon reaching tropical storm strength with sustained winds of at least 39 MPH. Tropical storms become hurricanes when winds reach 74 MPH and become major hurricanes when winds increase to 111 MPH. An average season has 11 named storms, including six hurricanes with two becoming major hurricanes.

"This outlook is a guide to the overall expected seasonal activity. However, the outlook is not just about the numbers, it's also about taking action," said Dr Gerry Bell, lead seasonal hurricane forecaster at the CPC. "Prepare for each and every season regardless of the seasonal outlook. Even a near- or below-normal season can produce landfalling hurricanes, and it only takes one landfalling storm to make it a bad season."

Rick Palm, K1CE, editor of the ARRL's ARES E-Letter <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/>, warns that now is the time for ARES members to assess their portfolio of communications equipment and disaster response knowledge. Palm gives several tips for amateurs involved with hurricane operations:

Monitor major HF hurricane networks during events this season. The Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) on 14.325 MHz is one of several key players <http://www.hwn.org/>. It serves either the Atlantic or Pacific during a watch or warning period and coordinates with the National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. Frequent, detailed information is issued on nets when storms pose a threat to the US mainland. In addition to hurricane spotting, local communicators may announce that residents have evacuated from low-lying flood areas. Other amateurs across the country can help by relaying information, keeping the net frequency clear and by listening. See the HWN's Web site for more information. The net works closely with the hams at the NHC's Amateur Radio station WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.com/>.

The SATERN Net (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) <http://www.satern.org/> provides emergency communication support to the Salvation Army and populations at large. They also handle health-and-welfare traffic. SATERN holds high profile nets on 20 meters (14.265 MHz) during major hurricanes and has a long history of excellence, discipline and service. Refer to the SATERN Web site for more information.

The Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) <http://www.mmsn.org/> meets on 14.300 MHz and is composed of hams who serve and assist those in need of communications on the high seas. According to its Web site, the primary purpose of the net is for handling traffic from maritime mobile stations. The network is recognized by the United States Coast Guard and has an excellent working relationship with that agency. The MMSN has handled hundreds of incidents involving vessels in distress and medical emergencies in remote locations, as well as passing health and welfare traffic in and out of affected areas. They also work closely with the NWS and NHC by relaying weather reports from maritime stations.

The VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net <http://www.voipwx.net/> operates by combining both the EchoLink and IRLP linked repeater networks, while handling critical wide area communications during major severe weather and tropical events. These operations have gained national stature in recent years, making the Net a critical partner with WX4NHC. Whenever tropical weather is posing a threat to the US mainland and certain other areas of interest, the VoIP WX net will be fully operational. See the VoIP SKYWARN and Hurricane Net Web site for more information.

Palm said that during hurricane events, there are usually two or three regional nets (usually on 40 or 20 meters) that spring to prominence as major key assets to the disaster response on an ad hoc basis. "Watch for these nets, as well as the nationally recognized networks described above, this season. Don't transmit on their frequencies unless you are absolutely sure you have something substantive to add, and then only under the direction of the net control station," Palm advised.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, added that when ARES activates in response to any tropical event, it is crucial that information flows up through the Section and is reported to Headquarters. "These reports allow us to develop the situational awareness and disaster intelligence that is required for us as an organization to support the Sections that are impacted" he explained. "In this way, we are able to respond to relevant requests from the media and finally to coordinate with the governmental and non-governmental organizations. This information also allows us to make the decision at Headquarters on whether to stand up our Incident Management Team to support and coordinate the operations."

If you are interested in Emergency Communications, please be sure to check out the monthly ARES E-Letter <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/>. You can elect to receive this newsletter free of charge via e-mail by going to the Member Data Page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==> QEX: THE JULY/AUGUST 2009 ISSUE

The July/August issue of QEX is coming soon, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles and columns that you won't want to miss <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

In this issue, Gary Steinbaugh, AF8L, presents Part 3 of "A Cybernetic Sinusoidal Synthesizer." This installment describes some limitations of proportional control systems and explains the advantages of adding integration and differentiation steps to proportional controllers. Steinbaugh also describes the construction of the RF power meter circuit used in the project

John Magliacane, KD2BD, and Bill Walker, W5GFE, describe "SPLAT!: An RF Signal Propagation and Terrain Analysis Tool." In addition to VHF/UHF line-of-sight paths, this program includes the Longley-Rice propagation model to predict path loss across irregular terrain. A Web interface provides a convenient way to use the extensive geographic terrain database in the calculations. Rudy Severns, N6LF, presents more of his research in "Experimental Determination of Ground System Performance for HF Verticals." Part 5 focuses on the effects of different numbers of radials on received signal strength for 160 meter vertical antennas.

Tom Warnagiris, K3GSY, introduces the Tapered Area Small Helix (TASH) antenna in "The Chicken Wire Wonder." Chances are, this unique broadband vertical antenna does not look like any antenna you have ever seen! An 80 meter version is 14 feet high and covers an area of about 4 ï¿½ 5 feet on the ground. Maynard Wright, W6PAP, provides information on several "Alternatives to

Octave" for various electronics calculations. ARRL Technical Advisor Robert J. Zavrel Jr, W7SX, presents the case for "Maximizing Radiation Resistance in Vertical Antennas" to increase the efficiency of our antennas.

John S. (Jack) Belrose, VE2CV, another ARRL Technical Advisor, presents a brief discussion "On Elevated Radials" after reading earlier installments of Rudy Severns' series about his experiments with HF vertical antenna radial systems. Ray Mack, W5IFS, continues his software defined radio column. In this installment of "SDR: Simplified," he builds an SDR that will tune a single AM broadcast band station.

Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50/printed page. Get more information and an Author's Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/#aguide>. If you prefer postal mail, send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Author's Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B <lwolfgang@arrl.org>, and is published bimonthly. The subscription rate (6 issues) for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First Class US delivery, it's $37; in Canada and internationally by airmail it's $31. Nonmembers add $12 to these rates. Subscribe to QEX today.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Rejoicing in the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot numbers from May 31-June 5 ranged from 13 to 23, then the Sun was blank for two days, followed by sunspot numbers of 12 for both June 8 and 9. This fleeting sunspot was number 1020, and like last week's spot, 1020 had the magnetic signature of a new Solar Cycle 24 spot. Alas, it was another of the frequent sunspots we've seen lately that appear briefly, and then vanish. The last Solar Cycle 23 spot was number 1016 that appeared April 29-30. Sunspot numbers for June 4-10 were 17, 13, 0, 0, 12, 12 and 0 with a mean of 7.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 71, 70.1, 69, 68.9, 69, 69.1 and 69.2 with a mean of 69.5. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 6, 5, 6, 4, 3 and 5 with a mean of 5. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 5, 2, 3, 2, 2 and 2 with a mean of 3. For this week, geomagnetic conditions should remain very quiet. Solar flux is estimated to be about 68, rising above 70 June 24-July 1. For more informati
on concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Christina Rossetti's "A Summer Wish" <http://www.readbookonline.net/readOnLine/15719/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week is the ARRL June VHF QSO Party on June 13-15. The Asia-Pacific Sprint is June 13. The GACW WWSA CW DX Contest and the ANARTS WW RTTY Contest are June 13-14. Next week, look for the ARRL Kids Day Contest on June 20. The NCCC Sprint Ladder and the Digital Pentathlon are

June 19. The Feld Hell Sprint and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest are June 20. One June 20-21, look for the West Virginia QSO Party and the All Asian DX Contest (CW). The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is June 22 and the SKCC Sprint is June 24. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 28, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 10, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing
helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Two New Co-sponsors Pledge Support for HR 2160: Earlier this week, HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- gained two new Congressional co-sponsors: Republican Roscoe Bartlett (MD-6) and Democrat Bart Gordon (TN-6). Originally sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee, a Democrat representing Texas' 18th District, HR 2160 is also sponsored by Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Brett Guthrie (KY-02), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer, (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-02). Click here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818> for information on how to encourage your Congressional representative to sponsor HR 2160 <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

* Don Tunstill, W4NO (SK): Don Tunstill, W4NO, founder of the Central America VEC, passed away at his home in Huntsville, Alabama on Monday, June 9. He was 69. Tunstill, an ARRL Life Member, was a charter member of Huntsville Amateur Radio Club and served as president of Huntsville Hamfest
<http://www.hamfest.org/> for more than 30 years. With the FCC, Tunstill assisted with the formulation and implementation of the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator program and the vanity call sign system. He founded the Central America VEC, one of the first VE programs in the state of Alabama. A memorial

service is planned for 10 AM on June 13 at Berryhill Funeral Home in Huntsville.

* Central States VHF Society Seeks Presentations for Annual Conference: The Central States VHF Society (CSVHFS) <http://www.csvhfs.org/> is soliciting presentations and poster displays for their 43rd Annual Conference this summer -- July 23-26 -- at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village, Illinois <http://www.csvhfs.org/conference/index.html>. Possible presentation topics on all aspects of weak-signal VHF and above include, but are not limited to, antennas (modeling, design, arrays and control), equipment construction, propagation, test gear, regulatory issues, operating, digital signal processing and software-defined radio. The submission deadline for presentations and poster displays is June 29; bring posters for display with you to the conference. For more information, visit the CSVHFS 2009 conference Web page <http://www.csvhfs.org/conference/index.html> or contact Kermit Carlson, W9XA <w9xa@yahoo.com>.

* From the DXCC Desk: According to ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, questions have been coming into DXCC regarding the status of 5N/LZ1QK in Nigeria. "DXCC is currently working with his QSL manager to resolve the status of this operation," Moore said. "At this time, DXCC accreditation is on hold pending the outcome of the review."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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258. Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-13 12:42:58 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <07f8c3b1-a033-4228-b4f2-7ca2a355592d@x5g2000yqk.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1968

Field Day starts two weeks from today.

Anybody (besides me) going to participate?

How about stories of past Field Days, while we're at it?

73 de Jim, N2EY

259. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-13 13:20:18 UTC
From: richgr@panix.com
Message-ID: <h10929$fo8$1@reader1.panix.com>
Source record: 1969

In article <07f8c3b1-a033-4228-b4f2-7ca2a355592d@x5g2000yqk.googlegroups.com>,
<N2EY@AOL.COM> wrote:
>Field Day starts two weeks from today.
>
>Anybody (besides me) going to participate?

My club (Fort Myers ARC) will be setting up a 5A station in North Fort
Myers, Fl using W4LX.

>How about stories of past Field Days, while we're at it?

I used to operate, but no longer.

--
Rich Greenberg N Ft Myers, FL, USA richgr atsign panix.com + 1 239 543 1353
Eastern time. N6LRT I speak for myself & my dogs only. VM'er since CP-67
Canines:Val, Red, Shasta & Casey (RIP), Red & Zero, Siberians Owner:Chinook-L
Retired at the beach Asst Owner:Sibernet-L

260. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-13 18:09:51 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <pln7359j9gc8k6hknictm7236tkngkr6dk@4ax.com>
Source record: 1970

On Sat, 13 Jun 2009 08:42:58 EDT, N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

>Field Day starts two weeks from today.
>
>Anybody (besides me) going to participate?

Our ARES group in Pahrump, NV will operate from the county's Emergency Operations Center, with an exchange of "nF Nevada" (where n depends how many transmitters we can scrounge up from members) using our club call W7NYE. We have an HF transceiver is permanently mounted in the radio room of the building and another transceiver permanently mounted in a trailer in the parking lot. Also members will bring some more transceivers from home.

Dick, AC7EL

261. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-14 06:47:25 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <Vd%Yl.6949$N_3.1018@newsfe14.iad>
Source record: 1971

Hello Bill,

Yes, a sad day, but, as has been pointed out, we appear to no longer be necessary.

When I was on Guam, my grandfather was dying. I placed a long distance person-to-person call to him in the hospital. In 1967, the charge was $3.00 per minute with a $12.00 minimum. I'm guessing that would translate to around $25.00 per minute nowadays.

At the time, I was serving 6 months TAD in preventive medicine whilst they processed my top-secret clearance. From there, I moved to NavComSta Guam - and we had a radio shack (KG6AAY).

Ah, the Collins gear :)

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:2fOdnamrVqadA6_XnZ2dnUVZ_qmdnZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> According to the Amateur Radio Newsline report #1661:
>
>> RESTRUCTURING: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT
>>
>> The days of Navy and Marine Corps MARS may be fast coming to an end.
>> This, according to a directive released by the commander of the Naval
>> Network Welfare Command. One that says that this branch of the
>> Military Affiliate Radio Services will terminate all operations at the
>> end of this summer.
>
> Although the Defense Department has the authority to cancel the "sunset"
> for Navy/Marine Corps MARS, it's very unlikely, so we say "Farewell" to a
> long chapter of Amateur Radio history.
>
> That will be a sad day, not only for me, but for hundreds, or perhaps
> thousands, of military and amateur operators. Those operators did an
> important job for the Navy and the Marine Corps: MARS gave sailors and
> Marines the chance to connect with their families from lonely overseas
> posts, and brought laughter, hometown news, and peace-of-mind to
> generations of servicemen.
>
> I had the honor of being one of those operators. Although I was in the
> Army, I ran the Navy-Marine Corts MARS station at Danang in 1971 and 1972,
> and I handled hundreds of phone patch calls for all comers, using a
> KWM-2A, a 30L-1, and a Millen transmatch feeding a Log Periodic at forty

> feet high. It was a labor of love for me: I had my regular duties to
> perform during daylight, and then I'd crank up the Collins gear at night.
>
> They says that the only constant is change. I wish it weren't so.
>
> Bill W1AC
> ex-N0LSI
>

262. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-14 15:54:09 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <79kkolF1ri3n1U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1972

Jim Hampton wrote:

> Yes, a sad day, but, as has been pointed out, we appear to no longer be
> necessary.

I have to sadly agree that there are aspects of the amateur radio hobby that are now obsolete. Along with the MARS systems I would include the National Traffic System. I realized this with Katrina when there was essentially no welfare traffic handled by NTS. When the rationale of the system is to prepare to handle traffic in an emergency, but the emergency occurs and there's no traffic, it's time to question whether the system needs to exist at all.

This leaves a training gap. NTS and the MARS provided the training in disciplined information handling for the hobby. Even when the task was tactical communications using VHF, the background provided by participation in MARS and NTS was invaluable in providing a reliable communications response when needed.

I suppose that the training burden now falls to ARES, as it's really the only structure left for this segment of the hobby. Some ARES groups do an excellent job of providing this skill set; some groups do nothing at all. That was the big advantage of the MARS and NTS systems -- they were nationwide, so even if you lived in an area with no ARES, you could still participate and get the training you needed.

73, Steve KB9X

263. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-15 04:12:20 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <goqdnRMTYL1wPKjXnZ2dnUVZ_h6dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1973

Steve Bonine wrote:
> Jim Hampton wrote:
>
>> Yes, a sad day, but, as has been pointed out, we appear to no longer
>> be necessary.
>
> I have to sadly agree that there are aspects of the amateur radio hobby
> that are now obsolete. Along with the MARS systems I would include the
> National Traffic System. [snip]
>
> This leaves a training gap. NTS and the MARS provided the training in
> disciplined information handling for the hobby. Even when the task was
> tactical communications using VHF, the background provided by
> participation in MARS and NTS was invaluable in providing a reliable
> communications response when needed.
>
> I suppose that the training burden now falls to ARES, as it's really the
> only structure left for this segment of the hobby. Some ARES groups do
> an excellent job of providing this skill set; some groups do nothing at
> all. That was the big advantage of the MARS and NTS systems -- they
> were nationwide, so even if you lived in an area with no ARES, you could
> still participate and get the training you needed.

I feel there is still a role for MARS, not only in voice communications
but also in more advanced digital modes. The military model encourages
standard equipment setups as well as training, so MARS can provide
digital networks that function as a cohesive structure, where all
stations have the same capability. That means that each member of a MARS
team has similar capabilities, and can thus be assigned to any needed area.

ARES has a place too, but it will always be limited by the "weakest
link" problem that prevents an incident manager from assigning _any_
operator to _any_ location, since hams who participate in ARES might not
have the equipment available to MARS ops.

Bill, W1AC
(Filter QRM for direct replies)

264. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-15 06:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1245045601@panix.com>
Source record: 1974
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.10 2009/05/27 12:04:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader
opinions in March of 2009:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt
it permanently if successful.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and
news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc.

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message)
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

Because rec.radio.amateur.moderated is a Usenet newsgroup, there are | implied or derived guidelines for participation that are drawn from the | above articles about overall Usenet culture and tradition. Two of these | implied or derived guidelines are encapsulated in two basic rules that | our moderation team uses to initially determine whether an article is | appropriate for our newsgroup. They are restated explicitly here for | clarification: |

Basic Rule #1: The article must be on-topic for amateur radio. A | rule-of-thumb that our moderation team applies is whether the article | mentions amateur radio, ham radio, some synonym for amateur or ham | radio, some technique or practice of amateur or ham radio including | closely related technical topics such as antennas or portable power, or | regulatory politics that directly affect amateur radio. This | rule-of-thumb is also applied to determine if an article in a thread has | drifted too far off-topic. For example, articles that have drifted into | general rants or monologues will probably be returned with a polite | request to rewrite to include a reasonable amateur radio connection or | angle. |

Basic Rule #2: The article must not have excessive spelling, grammar, or | logical argument errors affecting readability and understandability. | The moderation team understands that clear, understandable, technical or | expository writing is a skill that can only be perfected through a | lifetime of focused training and practice. Because the moderation team | does not want to hold submitters to a standard higher than what it can | achieve itself, nor disrupt the newsgroup and discourage submitters by | playing spelling or grammar police, it will only return for rewrite any | article that cannot be reasonably understood by multiple moderators. |

If it is necessary to return any article for a rewrite because the | moderators have determined that it does not meet Basic Rule #1 or #2, | please accept this constructive feedback in the manner in which it is | intended. The moderation team offers its assistance to help rewrite any | submitted article into a form that preserves its original intent and | meaning, but is also on-topic, as well as readable and understandable by | others. |

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which

itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such

fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The

moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management Board:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

265. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-15 11:20:31 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <79mp3iF1rf0ivU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1975

Bill Horne wrote:

> I feel there is still a role for MARS, not only in voice communications
> but also in more advanced digital modes. The military model encourages
> standard equipment setups as well as training, so MARS can provide
> digital networks that function as a cohesive structure, where all
> stations have the same capability. That means that each member of a MARS
> team has similar capabilities, and can thus be assigned to any needed area.

Please don't take this question as confrontational, but I really don't understand your statement. OK, so MARS can be used to create a digital network. What's the end goal?

Back in "the day", MARS existed to provide a communications service for troops in remote locations. MARS operators did lots of phone patches and relayed messages. Today that function is provided using different non-amateur-radio facilities.

I see a similar situation with NTS. There was a time when it made sense to put long-haul welfare traffic into the NTS network from a disaster. These days, if there's any disruption at all to normal telephone communications, the technique that makes sense is to relay the welfare traffic to the closest location where the infrastructure is operating normally and then pick up the telephone and use that for the long-haul segment.

The other thing that has happened that affects both services is that the source of day-to-day training traffic has dried up. Years ago there was enough routine traffic to keep people interested during the 364 days each year when there wasn't emergency traffic. There were the "Happy birthday Aunt Mary" messages and the "Arrived safely San Diego Naval Training Center" messages. But with the advent of cheap long-distance telephone service and with folks like the Navy no longer using amateur radio for their routine communications needs, these morphed into "Your ham license is about to expire."

For an activity such as NTS and MARS to remain viable long term, you need both -- the day-to-day routine traffic and the occasional "real thing". Today we have neither.

> ARES has a place too, but it will always be limited by the "weakest
> link" problem that prevents an incident manager from assigning _any_
> operator to _any_ location, since hams who participate in ARES might not
> have the equipment available to MARS ops.

From the ARES perspective, I am less concerned about the equipment aspect than the training aspect. In my experience, most of the current

need is for tactical communications, usually conducted using 2 meters and HTs, and most hams have equipment that fills the bill. But there are huge training gaps because some ARES units do a great job and some do nothing.

266. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-15 19:40:14 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <9Iydnc5UlbHgP6vXnZ2dnUVZ_r6dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1976

Steve Bonine wrote:
> Bill Horne wrote:
>
>> I feel there is still a role for MARS, not only in voice
>> communications but also in more advanced digital modes. The military
>> model encourages standard equipment setups as well as training, so
>> MARS can provide digital networks that function as a cohesive
>> structure, where all stations have the same capability. That means
>> that each member of a MARS team has similar capabilities, and can thus
>> be assigned to any needed area.
>
> Please don't take this question as confrontational, but I really don't
> understand your statement. OK, so MARS can be used to create a digital
> network. What's the end goal?

The end goal is to give Incident Managers a tested and effective communications option, and MARS could offer it. My point is that the military model requires uniform equipment and training, so someone using a MARS team could depend on _every_ station in the team having the _same_ capabilities.

Newer digital modes are still proprietary: if I have an Icom, it won't talk digitally to your Kenwood AFAIK. However, if I'm in a MARS network, I'll either have, or MARS might provide, equipment which _does_ talk to every other node. Ergo, uniform capability and maximum flexibility in assignments.

> Back in "the day", MARS existed to provide a communications service for
> troops in remote locations. MARS operators did lots of phone patches
> and relayed messages. Today that function is provided using different
> non-amateur-radio facilities.

Which shows how important "health and welfare" traffic is to troop morale and unit readiness. It's a "left handed compliment" for MARS members who made the phone patches possible.

> I see a similar situation with NTS. There was a time when it made sense
> to put long-haul welfare traffic into the NTS network from a disaster.
> These days, if there's any disruption at all to normal telephone
> communications, the technique that makes sense is to relay the welfare
> traffic to the closest location where the infrastructure is operating
> normally and then pick up the telephone and use that for the long-haul
> segment.

If all the staions in an emergency net can send and receive digital messages, then the traffic coming out of a disaster area can simply

transit the amateur network and join the Internet at the nearest
gateway, for delivery by the most efficient means available.

[snip]

>> ARES has a place too, but it will always be limited by the "weakest
>> link" problem that prevents an incident manager from assigning _any_
>> operator to _any_ location, since hams who participate in ARES might
>> not have the equipment available to MARS ops.
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> From the ARES perspective, I am less concerned about the equipment
> aspect than the training aspect. In my experience, most of the current
> need is for tactical communications, usually conducted using 2 meters
> and HTs, and most hams have equipment that fills the bill. But there
> are huge training gaps because some ARES units do a great job and some
> do nothing.

Since hams who participate in MARS have to meet minimum standards for
readiness (number of hours on net, etc.), that's less of a problem. The
larger issue is that hams, MARS, and the FCC lack a consensus on how
best to provide emergency communications, and so Navy-Marine Corps MARS
is being closed for lack of a mission.

73,

Bill, W1AC

267. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-16 03:17:07 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <drDZl.2675$u86.965@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1977

Bill Horne wrote:
> Steve Bonine wrote:
>> Bill Horne wrote:
>>
>>> I feel there is still a role for MARS, not only in voice
>>> communications but also in more advanced digital modes. The military
>>> model encourages standard equipment setups as well as training, so
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> communications option, and MARS could offer it. My point is that the
> military model requires uniform equipment and training, so someone using
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> every other node. Ergo, uniform capability and maximum flexibility in
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>> for troops in remote locations. MARS operators did lots of phone
>> patches and relayed messages. Today that function is provided using
>> different non-amateur-radio facilities.
>
> Which shows how important "health and welfare" traffic is to troop
> morale and unit readiness. It's a "left handed compliment" for MARS
> members who made the phone patches possible.
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>> sense to put long-haul welfare traffic into the NTS network from a
>> disaster. These days, if there's any disruption at all to normal
>> telephone communications, the technique that makes sense is to relay
>> the welfare traffic to the closest location where the infrastructure
>> is operating normally and then pick up the telephone and use that for
>> the long-haul segment.

>
> If all the staions in an emergency net can send and receive digital
> messages, then the traffic coming out of a disaster area can simply
> transit the amateur network and join the Internet at the nearest
> gateway, for delivery by the most efficient means available.
>
> [snip]
>
>>> ARES has a place too, but it will always be limited by the "weakest
>>> link" problem that prevents an incident manager from assigning _any_
>>> operator to _any_ location, since hams who participate in ARES might
>>> not have the equipment available to MARS ops.
>>
>> From the ARES perspective, I am less concerned about the equipment
>> aspect than the training aspect. In my experience, most of the
>> current need is for tactical communications, usually conducted using 2
>> meters and HTs, and most hams have equipment that fills the bill. But
>> there are huge training gaps because some ARES units do a great job
>> and some do nothing.
>
> Since hams who participate in MARS have to meet minimum standards for
> readiness (number of hours on net, etc.), that's less of a problem. The
> larger issue is that hams, MARS, and the FCC lack a consensus on how
> best to provide emergency communications, and so Navy-Marine Corps MARS
> is being closed for lack of a mission.
>
> 73,
>
> Bill, W1AC
>

At the risk of being quarrelsome; with my own brother no less; I would be glad to see the MARS program out of civil EMCOMM work altogether. I believe that resources that will serve local government should be under control of local government rather than some portion of the national military.

Bill is right in saying that MARS brings a standard approach and a predictable capability but FEMA could do the same thing if the expectation of a need was there. In spite of our recent history of bungled disaster response there is no ongoing effort to develop a known level of competence and capability to local and state disaster response resources. At present EMCOMM is trying to fit itself to a rapidly changing set of perceived needs in served agencies. Because of these changing needs perceptions it is not possible for anyone in EMCOMM to develop a truly useful resource.

What is happening is that FEMA is serving as a conduit for truly dizzying amounts of federal funds that local governments are spending on routine government purchasing instead of what the congress said the money was for. For some large local governments purchasing entirely

proprietary radio systems that can be telephone patched to other radio systems was the right way to spend money provided to purchase inter operable radio equipment. The vender keeps that customer wedded to their brand and makes sure that they cannot turn to anyone else for anything to do with the system. As only one example of the effect of this kind of system it know costs fifteen thousand dollars ($15,000) to equip a three person engine company with their portable radios. Thats right! Five thousand dollars per portable radio. The one objective that the vender had going in was to see that the radios would not be P25 compliant. If the adjacent county's radios could be used in the system it might be from a different manufacturer so the original manufacturer would not be able to demand five thousand dollars per portable and get it.

How does this relate to Amateur Radio's role in EMCOMM? Simply put we don't spend enough money to be worth thinking about in advance. We are welcome at the party only so long as we will make others look good but as soon as the pressure of the moment is passed the people that would need to invest resources in training and even perhaps equipment standardization are no longer interested. The one bright spot in recent history was the reaction of the state of Oregon to the valiant efforts of Hams during the flooding there. The state came up with money to equip all of their county EOCs with radios for amateur use but some fast talking soul sold them on Dstar rather than P25 digital public safety radios modified for use on amateur frequencies. P25 contains all of the standards needed to get a broad range of communications through to the recipients. It's only drawback is that it is an open standard that requires no proprietary equipment to implement so it won't make any one manufacturer wealthy.
--
Tom Horne

"This alternating current stuff is just a fad. It is much too dangerous for general use." Thomas Alva Edison

268. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-16 03:19:21 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <7d39d7bb-c389-4ba8-b2d2-0ae77b3840c6@y9g2000yqg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1978

>From: Steve Bonine on Sun 14 Jun 2009 08:54

>...NTS and the MARS provided the training in
>disciplined information handling for the hobby. Even
>when the task was tactical communications using VHF,
>the background provided by participation in MARS and
>NTS was invaluable in providing a reliable
>communications response when needed.

Even though I may be breaking some article of faith
here, I'll have to question whether or not the NTS
was ever any training ground for traffic handling
after about 70 years ago or so. Certainly so in
regards to MARS...which was considered to be a side
activity as part of Special Services for morale
purposes in the military after WWII. Considered,
that is, by the military communications community
itself from the 1950s and onward. Having been a
direct participant in military communications from
56 to 53 years ago and observing the evolution of
military communications in and out of direct ops
since then, I've got some insight into whether
MARS was ever effective for anything more than
morale purposes.

Today and at least since 5 years ago, Army MARS
(the branch that started it all in the 1920s) has
a major mission to help coordinate all the various
USA government HF radio users to link them all as
part of SHARES ("Shared resources"). The need for
morale purposes of MARS ended at least a dozen
years ago with the spread of the DSN and the
ability to get into the civilian communications
networks from the DSN (but not always the reverse).

>I suppose that the training burden now falls to ARES,
>as it's really the only structure left for this segment
>of the hobby.

It could. Consider the "pool" of USA amateur
licensees as of the morning of 15 Jun 09 had the
number of Technician class licensees as 47.3% of
all licensees, the "active" Technician licensees
represented 48.6% of all "active" USA licensees.
(source: Hamdata.com and ARRL, respectively)
That is an enormous pool of (largely) VHF-and-up

licensees who are mostly portable in operation. Technician class licensees have largely been kept out of periodical highlights (and 'importance') for decades.

Real emergency conditions of the past half century in the USA required multi-frequency local (within a line-of-sight radius)communications needs. VHF and UHF amateur radios can work well within L-O-S and need no experienced morse code operators. The majority of active amateur radio operators, on the basis of written communications on forums, is largely confined to HF. Local situations don't need HF to effect local emergency communications.

It is high time to toss some cherished articles of faith and overused paradigms into the dumpster and look at time NOW, what is here, what is available. We HAVE the technology and a huge pool of VHF-and-up communicators that would be of advantage in real emergencies NOW. It is my opinion that this pool and equipment has been ignored for far too long.

73, Len AF6AY

269. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-16 04:12:57 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <3d94acec-1061-4dac-9743-700d5d1ac31d@y9g2000yqg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1979
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Jun 15, 12:40 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> Steve Bonine wrote:
> > Bill Horne wrote:

> ... The larger issue is that hams, MARS, and the FCC lack a consensus on
> how best to provide emergency communications, and so Navy-Marine Corps
> MARS is being closed for lack of a mission.

The Department of Defense directs the Military Affiliate Radio System,
not the FCC. Its been that way since the War Department preceded the
DoD, when the US Army started the predecessor to MARS before WWII. In
my opinion it should stay that way.

I believe the FCC is on top of a need for emergency communications and
one proof of that is the P25 among other radio services. See also
CALEA.

If the military is going to aid in emergencies, the National Guard units
in several states have already helped out over the last half century.
An NG must be activated by Presidential order while a MARS unit can be
called out (at least the military personnel) by any branch Chief of
Staff. I've seen such NG units in background shots over TV news, of
river flooding in the Dakotas being a good example.

The big urban catastrophe of the 1994 Northridge Earthquake was a good
demonstration that already-organized, trained, and practiced civilian
pros could handle their task, including a complete loss of primary
electrical power over about a 600 square mile populated area as a result
of the 'quake. All of the PDs and FDs, utilities, health professionals
were capable of handling communications during that electrical power
outage. The Emergency Communications Center has already been on two
different cable TV shows.

USN-USMC MARS is a late-comer to MARS activities. Army and Air Force
MARS already have their mission directives and seem to be doing okay
without any need for publicity or budget-cutting.

73, Len AF6AY

270. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-16 11:52:09 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <79pfaoF1rjpspU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1980

Bill Horne wrote:

> If all the staions in an emergency net can send and receive digital
> messages, then the traffic coming out of a disaster area can simply
> transit the amateur network and join the Internet at the nearest
> gateway, for delivery by the most efficient means available.

The implicit assumption that you're making is that there is equipment and trained manpower at the location where such welfare traffic originates. That won't happen without prior planning and ongoing training. In today's world we do well to get a few hams into the disaster area with 2-meter HTs.

Then there's the little issue of the controlling agency wanting us to be there. Most sheltering operations in actual disasters are run by the Red Cross, and they have their own ideas about how they are going to take care of the needs of their clients with regard to welfare traffic. With the ongoing feud between the ARRL and the Red Cross, those plans generally do not include amateur radio.

The only way that ham radio will have a role in disaster communications is if the personal contacts are made and the relationships built between ham radio leaders and emergency management leaders, at the local level, before the event. The ham radio spokesperson must have a trained cadre of reliable people to offer in these talks. It's happening in a few places, but by and large the local and national emergency management folks either have no clue about how they might use ham radio in a disaster, or they've had bad experiences in the past that have convinced them that using the resource is a Really Bad Idea.

73, Steve KB9X

271. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-16 23:30:18 UTC
From: Jim Haynes <jhhaynes@earthlink.net>
Message-ID: <M4udndnqCakBearXnZ2dnUVZ_jxi4p2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 1981

```
On 2009-06-16, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:
> need no experienced morse code operators. The
> majority of active amateur radio operators, on the
> basis of written communications on forums, is
> largely confined to HF. Local situations don't
> need HF to effect local emergency communications.
>
And maybe amateurs who operate HF are largely uninterested
in handling emergency communications.
```

272. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-17 01:02:38 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <76ddb1b4-c29b-478e-bd15-31eabe920e28@r34g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1982

On Jun 14, 2:47 am, "Jim Hampton" <aa...@frontiernet.net> wrote:
>
> When I was on Guam, my grandfather was
> dying. I placed a long distance
> person-to-person call to him in the hospital.
> In 1967, the charge was $3.00
> per minute with a $12.00 minimum. I'm
> guessing that would translate to
> around $25.00 per minute nowadays.

$18.44 per minute, according to the Westegg Inflation Calculator. Which is still quite pricey!

Of course the reason the prices have come down so much since then is the development and deployment of fiber-optic cables.

What is not clear to me from the announcement is why the Navy is shutting down MARS. Do all USN ships and shore stations now have email, sat phones and other ways of getting morale traffic to back home? How much did they spend on MARS operations? (or, rather, how much will shutting it down save?)

Yes, a sad day. Perhaps the very first ham I ever met was Sam, K3RTR/N0UKP (SK for many years now).

Sam ran lots of Navy MARS traffic via RTTY from his rowhouse near the Upper Darby post office. I found his QTH by the vertical in the side yard, which had his MARS call on it. (End-of-row rowhouses were prized locations).

He directed me to the local amateur radio club and told me what I needed to do to get started in amateur radio.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Thanks, Sam.

73 de Jim, N2EY

273. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-17 03:17:18 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <zI6dneyPRP-wzqXXnZ2dnUVZ_rKdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1983

Jim Haynes wrote:
> On 2009-06-16, AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org> wrote:
>> need no experienced morse code operators. The
>> majority of active amateur radio operators, on the
>> basis of written communications on forums, is
>> largely confined to HF. Local situations don't
>> need HF to effect local emergency communications.
>>
> And maybe amateurs who operate HF are largely uninterested
> in handling emergency communications.

With respect, I disagree. It's not the band that counts: it's the attitude. Hams who favor HF also practice emergency communications every year at field day, and stand ready to provide "over the rainbow" service when disaster response forces need supplies, support, and advice that's not available locally.

73,

Bill, W1AC

274. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-17 21:14:13 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <IHb_I.1589$P5.348@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1984

"Steve Bonine" <spb@pobox.com> wrote in message
news:79mp3iF1rf0ivU1@mid.individual.net...
> Bill Horne wrote:
>
> > I feel there is still a role for MARS, not only in voice communications
> > but also in more advanced digital modes. The military model encourages
> > standard equipment setups as well as training, so MARS can provide
> > digital networks that function as a cohesive structure, where all
> > stations have the same capability. That means that each member of a MARS
> > team has similar capabilities, and can thus be assigned to any needed
area.
>
> Please don't take this question as confrontational, but I really don't
> understand your statement. OK, so MARS can be used to create a digital
> network. What's the end goal?
>
> Back in "the day", MARS existed to provide a communications service for
> troops in remote locations. MARS operators did lots of phone patches
> and relayed messages. Today that function is provided using different
> non-amateur-radio facilities.
>
> I see a similar situation with NTS. There was a time when it made sense
> to put long-haul welfare traffic into the NTS network from a disaster.
> These days, if there's any disruption at all to normal telephone
> communications, the technique that makes sense is to relay the welfare
> traffic to the closest location where the infrastructure is operating
> normally and then pick up the telephone and use that for the long-haul
> segment.
>
> The other thing that has happened that affects both services is that the
> source of day-to-day training traffic has dried up. Years ago there was
> enough routine traffic to keep people interested during the 364 days
> each year when there wasn't emergency traffic. There were the "Happy
> birthday Aunt Mary" messages and the "Arrived safely San Diego Naval
> Training Center" messages. But with the advent of cheap long-distance
> telephone service and with folks like the Navy no longer using amateur
> radio for their routine communications needs, these morphed into "Your
> ham license is about to expire."
>
> For an activity such as NTS and MARS to remain viable long term, you
> need both -- the day-to-day routine traffic and the occasional "real
> thing". Today we have neither.
>
> > ARES has a place too, but it will always be limited by the "weakest

> > link" problem that prevents an incident manager from assigning _any_
> > operator to _any_ location, since hams who participate in ARES might not
> > have the equipment available to MARS ops.
>
> From the ARES perspective, I am less concerned about the equipment
> aspect than the training aspect. In my experience, most of the current
> need is for tactical communications, usually conducted using 2 meters
> and HTs, and most hams have equipment that fills the bill. But there
> are huge training gaps because some ARES units do a great job and some
> do nothing.
>
It is the job of ARES or MARS to provide the framework for training and the job of the individual operator to engage in that training. It is impossible to engage in "real-life emergencies" on a regular basis. But it is possible to train and even cross-train unless it is somehow disallowed. I agree that it is a shame that ham radio does not provide the same attractive convenience as Texting, Twittering or Cell Phones, but these services are likely to be inoperative or partially inoperative in emergencies that result in communications failures. The reality is that as systems are engineered for greater convenience and even hardened, complexity gives rise to vulnerabilities that can only be addressed by broad experience and simple hardware, scattered across the land as single resources.

I would suggest that interested people should look into the Introductory (and free) online FEMA courses in order to get up to speed.

My recollections of dealing with local entities, was that they were only interested in proving what poor dispatchers we were, and never utilized for record traffic.

275. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-17 23:05:39 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <MYKdnUoUZ4rH7qXXnZ2dnUVZ_rednZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1985

Tom Horne wrote:
> Bill Horne wrote:

>> I feel there is still a role for MARS, not only in voice
>> communications but also in more advanced digital modes. The military
>> model encourages standard equipment setups as well as training, so
>> MARS can provide digital networks that function as a cohesive
>> structure, where all stations have the same capability. That means
>> that each member of a MARS team has similar capabilities, and can
>> thus be assigned to any needed area.
>
> At the risk of being quarrelsome; with my own brother no less; I would
> be glad to see the MARS program out of civil EMCOMM work altogether. I
> believe that resources that will serve local government should be under
> control of local government rather than some portion of the national
> military.

IMNSHO, the resources that serve local _CITIZENS_ should be under
control of an authority which is competent to assure their safety. Local
authorities can not effectively serve or protect refugees, such as
those residents of New Orleans who sat out hurricane Katrina on top of a
bridge because the police department "serving" Gretna didn't like the
color of their skin(1). The National Guard is (as I understand it) under
the command of state governors, who (I hope) are able to put aside local
prejudices and act in the best interest of people on both sides of a bridge.

> Bill is right in saying that MARS brings a standard approach and a
> predictable capability but FEMA could do the same thing if the
> expectation of a need was there. In spite of our recent history of
> bungled disaster response there is no ongoing effort to develop a known
> level of competence and capability to local and state disaster response
> resources. At present EMCOMM is trying to fit itself to a rapidly
> changing set of perceived needs in served agencies. Because of these
> changing needs perceptions it is not possible for anyone in EMCOMM to
> develop a truly useful resource.

I think you're making my case for me. There is no ongoing effort to
develop competent emcomm capabilities because natural disasters are
"maybe" and "someday" problems, but lobbyists and their clients are both
ever-present and ubiquitous, so money flows to the squeaking wheel.

So long as "perceived needs" are shifting, there will be a vacuum which
must be filled: _someone_ must bring order to the process, and that real
need is best filled by state or federal authority, with an emergency
response model that is as proven and reliable as any on earth. The
military is not, and never will be, a hotbed of innovation, but it is

always available everywhere, and that means that MARS can be available everywhere as well.

> What is happening is that FEMA is serving as a conduit for truly
> dizzying amounts of federal funds that local governments are spending on
> routine government purchasing instead of what the congress said the
> money was for. [snip]

As I said - "maybe" and "someday" vs. organized and well-funded lobbies representing everything from teachers' unions to radio equipment contractors. 'Twas ever thus, will ever be.

> How does this relate to Amateur Radio's role in EMCOMM? Simply put we
> don't spend enough money to be worth thinking about in advance. We are
> welcome at the party only so long as we will make others look good but
> as soon as the pressure of the moment is (past), the people that would
> need to invest resources in training and even perhaps equipment
> standardization are no longer interested.

Again, you're making my case for me. Armies don't live in the moment: they _have_ to be available and ready _all_ the time. A MARS operator is constantly in training, and his equipment is standardized by definition: if he can't participate in training nets or emcomm drills, he can't be in MARS.

Bill, W1AC

1.) See http://tinyurl.com/mbn6by, or http://tinyurl.com/n9n8ay. A Google search for "hurricane katrina racism refugees blocked from bridge" turned up thousands of hits.

276. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-17 23:08:42 UTC
From: AF6AY <LenAnderson@ieee.org>
Message-ID: <b4238612-685f-4330-9e95-b5a25f75f3de@r10g2000yqa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1986
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

>From: Bill Horne on Tue, 16 Jun 2009 23:17:18 EDT

>Jim Haynes wrote:
>> On 2009-06-16, AF6AY wrote:
>>> ... The
>>> majority of active amateur radio operators, on the
>>> basis of written communications on forums, is
>>> largely confined to HF. Local situations don't
>>> need HF to effect local emergency communications.

>> And maybe amateurs who operate HF are largely uninterested
>> in handling emergency communications.

>With respect, I disagree. It's not the band that counts: it's the
>attitude.

Having passed my only amateur radio license test a bit over 2 years ago, I object to the word "attitude." To those who wish to make a case in favor of EmComm as some moral or civic duty by radio amateurs are, in my opinion, confusing citizenship duty with an avocational pursuit. Amateur radio is a voluntary activity done for personal pleasure. It requires licensing as by regulatory law due to the nature of electromagnetic wave propagation and necessity for interference mitigation. It is a de facto hobby.

>Hams who favor HF also practice emergency communications every
>year at field day, and stand ready to provide "over the rainbow" service
>when disaster response forces need supplies, support, and advice that's
>not available locally.

I am 76 years old. I've been familiar with amateur radio activities since 61 years ago, visiting a Field Day setup in my home town in 1947 (at request of the late Gene Hubbell, then W9ERU). I've helped slightly on two other Field Days in California well before I've been licensed as an amateur but long after licensed as a Commercial radio operator. Based on my long observation of Field Day practices, my judgement is that it is - de facto - an excuse for a radio operation contest held in the open on a summer weekend. More of a "nice day in the park among radio buddies" and an excuse to get away from regular weekend familiy duties.

By contrast, a very REAL emergency happened in Los Angeles on January 17, 1994, at approximately 4:30 AM...the dark morning hours, good for observing a total lack of primary electrical power. No warnings, no scheduling ahead of time for at least a half year before. At least it

was a warmer-than-usual morning in Los Angeles 15 years ago. There was no evidence that local amateur radio field setups were done until two days after the earthquake hit. In my opinion, REAL emergency training should be done to familiarize participants with the rigors of unexpected situations, or having to work with what is available then, not at some scheduled park-outing with or without barbeque in pleasant, comradely surroundings.

As to the contest activity which I consider the main aspect of Field Day, if it really has some EmComm training, then let thar be oriented towards real emergency conditions such as saving life (however simulated), ability to pass requests on any kind of supplies accurately (certainly medical supply nomenclature, including complex medicine names). There are no Field Day contest scores for that or similar REAL emergency communications needs...only scores for how many other field day stations are contacted and with what kind of mode or modulation. Every other radio service that does any kind of emergency plan training does not base its activity on how many other emergency stations are contacted. They are planned, organized, trained to work within their radio service grouping or in liason with other radio service groups. I will respectfully suggest finding out how the Los Angeles Emergency Communictions Center does its planning, organization and training. They were ready and equipped before 1994.

73, Len AF6AY

277. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-18 12:29:28 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <f42ca48f-b701-42d8-ae8c-99c1609c378c@r10g2000yqa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1987
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Jun 16, 11:17 pm, Bill Horne wrote:
> It's not the band that counts: it's the
> attitude. Hams who favor HF also practice emergency
> communications every
> year at field day, and stand ready to provide
> "over the rainbow" service
> when disaster response forces need
> supplies, support, and advice that's
> not available locally.

Well, I agree and disagree...

Emergency preparedness and training, at a basic level, are certainly an important part of Field Day. If nothing else, actually going out, setting up a Field Day station and operating it can be a great learning experience. Particularly for the person without a background in such things. I mean we have to start somewhere!

But there's a lot more to Field Day than that, IMHO. It's also a social event, a camping trip, a radiosport contest, a chance to experiment with rigs, power sources, antennas, modes, bands and locations, and much more.

I've gone out on every ARRL Field Day since about 1967 and every one has been a unique and fun new experience. Of course a lot of that is "the attitude" one brings to it.

Emergencies come in all sizes and forms, and there isn't a one-size-fits-all response. An emergency can be as small as a stranded motorist who gets help via ham radio to a major disaster such as a hurricane, flood, or blizzard. All of them have different characteristics and need different responses. The degree to which the authorities can handle them varies all over the place; just look at the Hurricane Katrina disaster, or what happens when a snowstorm hits a part of the country that's not used to snow.

Of course as the communication infrastructure has matured, many situations that used to commonly need our help are now usually handled by other means. It wasn't that long ago when 911 calls via autopatch were a near-daily occurrence here; now they are rare because almost everyone has a cell phone.

73 de Jim, N2EY

278. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1662 - June 19 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-19 12:28:09 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090618232722.0167bfc0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1988
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1662 - June 19 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory. Ladies and gentlemen, here is amateur radio Newsline's Support Fund administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

OK, you all know why I am here. Its spring and all the bills from last winter have been mounting up. And, as usual, there is really not very much left in the treasury to pay them. Eventually they have got to get paid or these news reports will cease. That time is now.

So we ask that you take a few moments to send a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline support fund so that we can keep these newscasts coming your way. Making a contribution is only a mouse click away if you have Pay Pal. Just go to www.arnewsline.org and click on the button at the top of the page marked "Make Donation." Or you can send in a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Whichever way you choose, the all volunteer crew at the Amateur Radio Newsline will be eternally grateful and these newscasts will be here for you..

Once again that's the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066. Or by Pay Pal at www.arnewsline.org

For the Support Fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

--

Thank you Andy. That ends the closed circuit advisory. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1662 with a release date of Friday, June 19th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. A new record for International Space Station to schoolroom contacts, the noise goes away from 6 meters as digital television arrives, a World Administrative Radio preparatory conference takes place in Canada and ham radio is again growing in the United States. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1662 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISS REACHES 443 SCHOOL CONTACTS

A major milestone for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station or ARISS school project. This as the total number of ARISS contacts between the astronaut hams on board the orbiting outpost and schoolrooms here on Earth has now reached 443. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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An average of 20 students are able to ask questions of an on-orbit crew during a normal ARISS contact. That totals out to well over 8000 school kids world-wide who have gotten a chance to vicariously visit the International Space Station via ham radio since the classroom contact program began.

For those not aware, today's Amateur Radio on the International Space Station to schoolroom educational program is a direct outgrowth of the old SAREX or Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment. It was begun in the mid-1980's under the aegis of the late Roy Neal, K6DUE, and operated under the joint sponsorship of AMSAT, the ARRL and the educational arm of NASA.

As space experimentation has progressed so has amateur radio's part in it. Today, the ARISS school contact program is an important part of this ongoing work by ham radio volunteers world-wide. Hams working with astronauts and cosmonauts to bring the science of spaceflight a little closer to kids here on Earth.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

A complete listing of all scheduled school contacts, and questions, other I-S-S related websites, along with IRLP and Echolink websites related to this ongoing project can be found on-line. Its at http://www.amsat.org/amsat/ariss/news/arissnews.rtf (ANS)

**

RESTRUCTURING: 6 METER NOISE FLOOR DROPS AS DTV REPLACES ANALOG

A present to the United States VHF and UHF ham community. This from both the broadcasters and the FCC as many of the nations VHF television stations vacate many of the low VHF channels, go digital and lower the overall noise floor on 6 meters.

The big digital television change out began at 00:01 EST on Friday, June 12th. Stations across the nation chose their own time to turn off their analog transmitters and move their operations to their permanent digital channels. Many of the low-band stations opted to move to the UHF band. A lot of them operated on Channel 2 just above the 6 meter ham band. And when those analog channel 2 transmitters went QRT, the noise level on 6 meters dropped in many locations. Places like

Chicago, where Keith Morehouse, W9RM, reported over the VHF Reflector that this is a big plus in Chicago where the long known Channel 2 audio spur is gone. That spur used to trash the WSJT meteor scatter calling frequency 50.260 MHz.

In Milwaukee Ray Greiner, K9KHW, reports on the analog shutdown on VHF channels 4, 6 and 12. He reports that he found most of the VHF and UHF ham bands so quiet that he actually checked and see if his antennas were connected. He says that on 6 meters where the normal noise level was S-3 to S-4, its now zero.

But 6 meters is not the only band seeing a noise floor improvement. Steve Rutledge, N4JQQ, is in Memphis Tennessee/ He says that when VHF channel 3 went to UHF and channels 5 and 13 went digital on their current assignments, that the noise he heard on the 222 MHz ham band when pointing his beam East is now completely gone. He says that in the past, that the noise level was so high that it wiped out any signal from the east, even with a bandpass filter before his tower mounted preamp.

Even some of those living North of the United States and Canadian border are happy about the change. Jordan Arndt, VE6ZT, in Calgary, Ontario says that he can hear the difference up in Grid Square DO-21. This is especially true when the band is open.

Its going to take a few weeks to really assess the impact that the digital television conversion will have on most of the VHF and UHF ham bands, but so far the results seem very good indeed. (ARNewsline, VHF Reflector)

**

RESTRUCTURING: WRC PREP MEETING HELD IN CANADA

Over 100 delegates from countries in the Americas gathered for a meeting June 2nd to the 5th in Ottawa, Canada. This in preparation for the next World Radio Conference that is to be held in Geneva late in 2011. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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Almost every item on the WRC Agenda was discussed . The goal was to find common ground that would be supported by the CITEL countries. Some subjects of interest to amateur radio discussed including the future of Broadband Over Powerline standards for adoption at the next meeting in November at Washington, D.C..

A common paper was produced and adopted by the plenary that most probably will be the basis of a joint Region 2 proposal at an upcoming meeting. Also, the delegates agreed to keep an eye on several agenda items that, although not of direct interest to Amateur Radio, could affect us depending on the positions adopted.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

Amateur radio for IARU Region 2 was represented by Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, and Dario Jurado, HP1DJ. Jon Siverling, WB3ERA was on the USA delegation and Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, was part of the Canadian contingent. (RAC, Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: SOUTH AFRICA GIVES NEW PRIVILEGES ON 40 AND 20

South African radio amateurs will now have full access to the spectrum 7.000 to 7.200 MHz. In a government notice issued on Wednesday, June 10th, changes to both 40 and 20 meters were made final. In addition to the modification on 40, ZR licensees will now also have access from 14.225 to 14.350 MHz. The expanded privileges for South African hams is a direct result of negotiations begun in February of 2008 between the South African Radio League and that nations telecommunications regulation authority. (SARL)

**

SPECTRUM PLANNING: VK HAMS HOLD REPEATER PLANNING MEETING FOR FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

Hams in the United States seem to be going in many different directions in planning the future of repeater communications and frequency coordination as it enters a new age. Meantime their counterparts down-under are taking the proverbial bull by the horns. They gathered together on Sunday June 7th to make sure repeaters in Australia are ready for the future and the future is ready for what ham radio repeaters will offer. Robert Broomhead, VK3DN, has the details.

--

Not surprisingly, just like the commercial radio-communications industry, Australian amateur spectrum in the 2 meter VHF band and to a lesser degree in the 70cm UHF band is very congested or not available for new technologies.

The forum was kicked off with a presentation from the two Peters on the issues and how other IARU Regions have tackled similar problems, which stimulated further discussion of the issues. The outcome lead to some positive steps forward for the need to explore better use of CTCSS tone code to protect FM repeaters from unwanted incidental interference, a tentative way forward to address adjacent FM channel interference issues from D-Star mobiles and the development of 12.5 kHz plans for repeaters and simplex channels for wider discussion in the amateur community.

The forum was organized by the WIA to formulate options for addressing identified interference issues between repeaters along the New South

Wales coastal areas and the need to explore future spectrum options for new digital technologies.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Robert Broomhead, VK3DN, in Australia.

--

The last Australian meeting to discussion these sorts or issues was held in the early 1970's. That's where the foundations of today's existing V-K band plans for repeaters were made. Here in the United States its been over a decade since the ARRL hosted the famed Big Old Meeting of repeater coordinators and the FCC. (WIA News)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Catalina Repeater Association systems serving Los Angeles and Orange County, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO GROWTH: THE NUMBERS ARE UP

The overall number of United States amateur radio operators appears to have increased by 12,877 from June 15 2008 to June 15th, 2009. This according to George Mc Couch, K3UD, who notes that the Technician class had the largest large increase. It showed an overall gain of 9,092 with the General adding 4,427 to its license rolls.

On the downside was the Novice that declined by 1,703 and Advanced by 2,029. This is due to attrition and upgrading away from both of these classes which are no longer offered by the FCC.

Looking at license class popularity, K3UD's numbers indicate that the Technician license is still the most sought after by newcomers and it has continued to make good gains over the last 12 months. But there is still a trend of Technicians upgrading to General begun some years ago that is ongoing. Also being seen is significant movement to Extra. It has shown an increases of 3,090 hams earning the top of the line ticket.

As to actual numbers, on May 16th of this year there were only 17,497 Novice class while Technician growth makes that class the largest with 327,793 holders. Generals number 147,644, Advanced sit at 61,204 and Extra rounds out the service with 117,387. That adds up to 671,525 licensed by the United States F-C-C.

K3UD points out that his figures are a comparison of two snapshots of the numbers taken at two different times and are a snapshot comparison

of two dates a year apart. As such, the numbers do not show the changes taking place every day which sometimes are up and other times downward. (K3UD via QRZ.con)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GAO SAYS FEMA NOT READY

A report issued by the Government Accountability Office says FEMA does not have a plan to coordinate all the national disaster exercises. Also, that it cannot track whether other federal agencies and communities across the country are prepared to respond to disasters. In its response to the report, FEMA said it relies on cooperation from other agencies to complete some of its plans. (Published reports)

**

RADIO LAW: CONGRESS TO HEAR LOUD VOLUME BILL

A measure that would require the FCC to set a standard for commercial volume for broadcast, cable and satellite programming is making its way through Congress. The House Subcommittee on Communications, Technology and the Internet has scheduled a hearing on H.R.1084, better known as the Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act. The bill would require the FCC to set a standard for commercial volume for broadcast, cable and satellite programming. The idea is to insure that the volume of ads isn't too loud and isn't louder than the surrounding programming. If enacted into law, the measure would prevent commercials from being excessively noisy or strident; having modulation levels substantially higher than the accompanying program or having an average maximum loudness substantially higher than that of the accompanying program. HR 1804 was introduced last February 13th by Democrat Anna Eshoo of California. It already has 28 co-sponsors. (RW) ** COMMUNICATIONS LAW: A BIG WIN FOR BLOGGERS AND COMMENTERS IN MD A big win for those who like to blog and post comments on the Internet. This as a court in Maryland says posters are protected under that states law. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has the details: -- COMMUNICATIONS LAW: MARYLAND SIDES WITH BLOGGERS IN DEFAMATION VS FREE SPEECH CASE

** Maryland's highest court has ruled that operators of newspaper Web sites, blogs and chat rooms that allow readers to post anonymous comments using pseudonyms do not have to readily reveal the posters' identities in defamation suits. This as the Maryland Court of Appeals reversed a lower court ruling and ordered that NewsZap.com, an online forum run by Independent Newspapers, does not have to disclose the identities of forum participants who engaged in an online exchange about the cleanliness of a Dunkin' Donuts shop in 2006.

The late February finding involves the case of an Eastern Shore businessman, had contended that the anonymous posters using screen name pseudonyms had defamed him in comments about his Centreville restaurant. The Appeals Court ruled that the plaintiff had not correctly identified the forum participants and, therefore, was not

entitled to learn of their identities. More broadly, however, the court used the case to recommend a strict, five-step process for judges to follow to balance the First Amendment right to anonymous speech on the Internet with the opportunity on the part of the object of that speech to seek judicial redress for alleged defamation.

The process, which closely matches one set out by a New Jersey court in 2002, requires a plaintiff claiming defamation from an online comment to try to notify the anonymous poster that the person is the subject of a subpoena including by posting a message on the relevant online message board. The plaintiff must then identify in court filings the exact statements purportedly made by each anonymous poster, as well as show how those comments have caused damage.

Maryland's court also went further than New Jersey's, adding that the plaintiff might have to provide specific evidence supporting each element of the defamation claim. Finally, it indicated that judges also have to balance the anonymous poster's right of free speech against the need to disclose a defendant's identity.

I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD -- This is one of the farthest reaching court decisions aimed at protecting the anonymity of comment posters and bloggers along with their right to express their personal views as they see fit. Its not known if the plaintiff will seek to overturn the Maryland state judicial decision in the federal courts. (ComNews) **
NAMES IN THE NEWS: CQ PROP EDITOR CHALLENGES PROP EXPERTS

Some names in the news. First up is the Propagation Editor CQ magazine who is challenging the accuracy of the newest predictions on Solar Cycle 24.

In an online commentary posted on the CQ magazine website, Tomas Hood, NW7US, notes that this same group of what he term as so-called "experts" has issued multiple predictions for this cycle already. He notes that so far all of which they now say are wrong and he asks why we should believe they're right this time.

Hood points out that, while the Sun itself is millions of years old, scientists have been tracking solar activity for just a few hundred years. He says that in his view it is pretty arrogant to postulate that mankind has any real understanding and handle on what the Sun might do next.

The complete text of Hood's commentary is on the CQ website and may be accessed by clicking the "online commentary" link at www.cq-amateur-radio.com on the left hand side of the home page. (CQ)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: K4ZDH JOINS QRZ.COM VOLUNTEER STAFF

The giant QRZ dot com website has announced that former FCC ham radio rules enforcer Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, has become the latest member

of the websites volunteer staff. He will serve as a guest columnist and advisor to the QRZ staff.

Hollingsworth retired from the FCC last year where he had a distinguished career as a Special Counsel in the Enforcement Bureau. He was responsible for the FCC's Amateur Radio Enforcement Program and as a ham himself, has proven himself as great asset to our hobby. (QRZ.com)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: NEW UK NATIONAL HAMFEST

On the social scene, a new National Hamfest has been announced in the United Kingdom. According to the Radio Society of Great Britain, the show which is being produced in association with the Lincoln Shortwave Club, has the full support of the major amateur radio vendors and manufacturers and will take place on 2nd and 3rd of October is the George Stephenson Hall at the Newark and Nottingham show-ground. Full details of this event can be found online at www.nationalhamfest.org.uk. (GB2RS)

**

SPECIAL EVENT: THE TECHNICAL MUSEUM OF VIENNA AT 100

And It's a happy 100th birthday to the Technical Museum Vienna Austria. And to celebrate the occasion, members of the ICOM Radio Club of Vienna and the Austrian International Amateur Radio Union will be activating the special callsign O-E-100-T-M-W between June 17th and the 21st.

According to event planners, this will be a 100 hour continuous operation with stations on many of the High Frequency bands as well as VHF. All licensed amateurs are invited to come to the museum and operate the special station or make contact with it on the air. More information is on the event pages on the World Wide Web. They are in cyberspace at http://www.hamradio.at/index.php?id=73 and http://www.tmw.at/default.asp?al=Englisch&am=home (Southgate)

**

OPERATING EVENTS: FIELD DAY 2009 - JUNE 27 - 28

The 2009 ARRL Field Day will be held June 26th and 27th at location near you. According to the League, its Field Day is the most popular on- the-air operating event in amateur radio. Its truly a time in that brings amateur radio to Main Street USA. This, as hams set up stations in parking lots, malls, parks and Emergency Operations Centers to demonstrate the skills that will allow them to better serve their communities.

Demonstrating the hobby in these public venues gives added public relations value. It gives all in a community a chance to see and experience both the fun and public service capability that their ham

radio neighbors bring to the community.

Amateur radio is about knowledge and growth. It is a hobby and service that truly offers "something for everyone. That's why every year, on the fourth full weekend in June, tens of thousands of amateur radio operators gather for a public demonstration of our service. 2009 is expected to be bigger and better than ever before.

More information about Field Day can be found on the American Radio Relay League's website. Its in cyberspace at www.arrl.org/fieldday. (ARRL) **

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DON TUNSTILL, W4NO - S.K.

A ham who helped to create the nations all volunteer testing and vanity call sign systems has become a silent key. David Black, KB4KCH, takes a look at the life and contributions of Don Tunstill, W4NO:

--

If you have a vanity callsign, you might have Don Tunstill to thank for it. Tunstill will be remembered as a pioneer of sorts. He helped set in motion the process for radio amateurs across the country to become licensed. Tunstill worked closely with the FCC in creating the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator and vanity callsign programs.

--

W4OZK: "He was just a great person and he was a great mentor, a great example for amateur radio and just a great person overall."

--

That's Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, the ARRL's Southeastern Division Director. Tunstill's work extended well beyond helping hams get their licenses. He was a familiar face at the Huntsville Hamfest--he helped start the Hamfest and served as its President for 30 years. In Alabama, Tunstill founded CAVEC, the Central Alabama Volunteer Examiner Coordinator. Under Tunstill's direction, CAVEC license exams eventually extended throughout Alabama and into seven other states. Again, Greg Sarratt:

--

"W4OZK: "Don has done a lot for amateur radio over the years. A lot of what he's done has been behind the scenes, although he has been in the forefront of the Huntsville Hamfest Association, the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club and CAVEC. We've lost a great person."

--

Don Tunstill died June 9th at his home in Huntsville. He was 69. Though suffering from emphysema, Tunstill, who was a life member of the ARRL, remained an active supporter of the Huntsville Hamfest and amateur radio.

>From Birmingham, Alabama, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, for the Amateur Radio Newsline

--

A memorial service was held for Don Tunstill, W4NO, on Saturday on June 13th in Huntsville, Alabama. (ARNewsline)

**

ON THE AIR: ALTUS OK. TO THE WORLD

Hams in Altus, Oklahoma, are starting a local net with a worldwide outreach. This, thanks to a local repeater tied to the world by Voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP technology.

Dale Town, AF5AF, is the president of the Altus Area Amateur Radio Association. He says hat the new local net will be tied to the world using 444.650 MHz repeater that will also accept stations check-ins from Echolink operators who connect to WX5EM-R node number 361238.

The net will be held on Wednesdays at 01:00 UTC which is 2000 hours Central Daylight Savings Time. All amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate. (KC5FM)

**

WORLDBEAT: ETHIOPIA ON THE JAM

If you regularly listen into the 7.100 to 7.200m kHz range on 40 meters, then you may have noticed some interference that has not yet gone away. Starting at 16.30 GMT and lasting about one hour, you will find on a powerful wideband rushing noise which is some 15kHz wide on 7.165 or sometimes on 7.175 kHz,. Also very faintly you can hear the carrier of a program below the jammer.

The culprit is Radio Ethiopia and it is jamming Voice of the Broad Masses from Eritrea. And this is nothing new because Ethiopia also regularly jams other transmissions in Amharic from radio Deutsche Welle, on 15 and 11MHz.

Back in 2008 Ethiopia commissioned three or four new transmitters, some of which are regularly used for jamming unwanted programs. The jamming uses a rectangular white noise signal that is some 10 to 16 kHz wide.

(Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: UK MAN CHARGED IN HIGHWAY ACCIDENT THAT KILLED UK HAM

A follow-up t our story a few weeks ago we brought you the story of a tragic accident that claimed the life of Peter Rushton G7PMZ. He and Ian Firby, G7VCG, were involved in a highway collision on the United Kingdom's M 61 Motorway am May 24th. Rushton died at the scene while Firby was transported to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment.

Now the London Daily Mail reports that the brother of former England cricket captain Mike Atherton has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving. Chris Atherton is alleged to have changed lanes on a motorway, causing another car to swerve and overturn

Atherton, who runs a building firm, was arrested and questioned by officers before being released on bail while an investigation into the crash is carried out. You can read the Daily Mail article at www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1190901/Mike-Athertons-brother-arrested-fatal-motorway-crash.html (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: GPS TO BE JAMMED IN SCOTTISH TEST

If you are driving in the very north of Scotland or the Orkneys between July 11th through the 16th, your G-P-S system may go brain dead. Its being jammed ad its perfectly legal.

The U-K Ministry of Defense will be conducting another Global Positioning System jamming exercise. The July tests will be for limited periods between 11.00 and 15.00 UTC. The location for the exercise is to sea westwards from 58 degrees 57.4 minutes North and 3 degrees 13.9 minutes West. This is about 60 nautical miles west of Kirkwall.

The Ministry of Defense conducts occasional tests on military systems that may result in some loss of service to civilian users of the Global Positioning System. This includes such equipment as in-car navigation devices and other networks which rely on GPS signals. (RSGB)

**

WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO AMATEUR EXAMINATION CANDIDATES JUBILANT

The wait is over in South Africa for 98 candidates of the 125 who entered and passed the nations Radio Amateur Examination. The oldest candidate was Mr. E. Smook, ZR2ES, from Port Elizabeth who is 74. The youngest was R. Preston, ZU4RP from who is only 9 years old. (SARL)

**

THE CONTESTING CORNER: CQ ANNOUNCES NEW XTREME CATEGORY FOR CQWW DX CONTEST

CQ Magazine says that it has added a new Xtreme category to the CQ World Wide DX Contest. This, to encourage the development of new technologies in amateur radio communications in general and contesting in particular.

According to CQ World Wide Contest Director Bob Cox, K3EST, this new category has been established to allow amateurs to participate in the contest while experimenting creatively with Internet-linked stations and other new technologies. The highest-scoring entries in the single-operator and multi-operator categories will win the John Kanzius, K3TUP, Memorial plaques, sponsored by Tim Duffy, K3LR. Kanzius, a prominent contester, was also an experimenter who developed a potentially ground-breaking approach to cancer treatment in the course of his own, ultimately unsuccessful, battle with the disease.

The new Xtreme category will take effect with the 2009 CQ World Wide DX Contest this fall. Complete details of the are in the June issue of CQ and are on the CQWW page of the CQ magazine website. Its at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

**

WORLDBEAT: VK HAMS GET SECONDARY STATUS FROM 135.7 - 137.8 KHZ

Meantime, the Australian Communications and Media Authority has advised the Wireless Institute of Australia that any V-K amateur holding an Advanced license may now apply for a variation of their license to allow operation on a secondary basis in the low frequency band from 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. Australian hams are limited to a maximum radiated power of 1 Watt Effective Radiated Power in the new low frequency band. (WIA News)

**

DX

In D-X, word that SU1SK, and several other Egyptian operators will be active as SU8LH. This as the first Egyptian Lighthouse DXpedition on Ras El-Bar Island from August 1st to the 9th.

KP2YL and KP2HC will be back on St. Croix until 30th June. Listen for them using CW and SSB on 160 to 6m. Please note that June is the 6 meter DX season in the Caribbean. QSL direct only via the addresses on QRZ.com.

PF4T will be active as 8Q7TB from Embudu in the Maldives until 24th of June. He will operate SSB on 40 and 20m. QSL direct via his home call or via PA0LEY for the bureau

W5YDX will be active holiday style portable VP9 from Bermuda until the 24th of June. He expects to operate mainly on 20 and 17m SSB. QSL via home call, direct only.

Lastly in DX that's on-orbit, word that HB9OAB will activate from Morocco as CN2AB on the VO-52 ham radio satellite. This, between June

27 through July 20, 2009. More information is on-line at www dot qrz dot com slash CN2AB

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE SAGA OF THE FISHY CELLPHONE

And finally this week, the story of United Kingdom resident Andrew Cheatle and his cellphone which the June issue of Popular Communications Magazine may own the most reliable phone in the world.

In a recent interview with a United Kingdom newspaper, Cheatle explained that he was messing playing with his dog near the seashore when his cellphone phone must have fallen and got swept away. Cheatle said that he kept calling it in hope someone may have found it. Nobody answered so he gave up after a couple of days.

Fast forward a week. Cheatle is out with his girlfriend shopping for a new cellphone when her phone rang. She told him that his mobile number was calling hers. The person on the other end identified himself as Glen Kerley. Kerley, a fisherman by trade told Cheatle that he was gutting a large codfish that morning and found Cheatle' s Nokia 1600 phone inside.

Kerley tried using the phone, but it didn't work. So he removed its SIM card, put it in his own handset, and started calling numbers from the SIM' s phonebook to find the owner.

At first Cheatle didn't believe the story but went to meet him. What he found was his phone that was a bit smelly and battered. Now heres the best part. By the time he got to Kerley's place the phone had dried out and incredibly it came back to life.

Kerley says that Cod are greedy fish-they'll eat anything. He's found plastic cups, stones, teaspoons, batteries, and everything else under the sun in them. He says that he's even heard of someone finding false teeth in one.

You can read more fun communications stories like this one on page 6 of the June issue of Popular Communications magazine.

And one last word on this story: Its rumored that Cheatle, who runs an online retail company, apparently still uses the fishy phone. Word is that there's a long line of hungry looking cats following him wherever he goes.

Well not really, but it's sure a fun sentence with which to end this weeks newscast. (PopComm)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline'sT only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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279. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-19 14:18:18 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7a1is3F1tdmeqU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1989

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

> Emergency preparedness and training, at a basic level, are certainly an
> important part of Field Day. If nothing else, actually going out,
> setting up a Field Day station and operating it can be a great learning
> experience. Particularly for the person without a background in such
> things. I mean we have to start somewhere!

I think that the key words in what you said are "can be". There are people who come to Field Day just for the social aspects or the contest aspects. And that's fine; the hobby is plenty broad enough to encompass many different interests and far be it from me to force my preferences on anyone else.

> But there's a lot more to Field Day than that, IMHO. It's also a social
> event, a camping trip, a radiosport contest, a chance to experiment
> with rigs, power sources, antennas, modes, bands and locations, and
> much more.

The part that I find somewhat amusing is the idea that you can judge the state of training for emergency communications by visiting one Field Day operation. They're all different, depending on the interests of the participants. There are operations that are primarily social in which there is little learning taking place, and there are others that are very serious attempts to experiment and learn to prepare for emergencies. There's nothing wrong with this; FD provides an opportunity to do what the group wants to do.

> I've gone out on every ARRL Field Day since about 1967 and every one
> has been a unique and fun new experience. Of course a lot of that is
> "the attitude" one brings to it.

Yes, unique. Every FD operation is different and has a different mix of social, contest, and emergency communications training. Even operations conducted by the same club will be different year to year, depending on the goals of the people who turn out that year.

But as you point out, you've got to start somewhere, and even the most social-oriented operation still provides exposure to different aspects of the hobby for people who may not have seen it before. FD is one of the Good Parts of the hobby.

73, Steve KB9X

280. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-19 19:16:56 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <-NSdnea5BItYfqbXnZ2dnUVZ_qmdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1990
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

AF6AY wrote:
>> From: Bill Horne on Tue, 16 Jun 2009 23:17:18 EDT
>
>> Jim Haynes wrote:
>>> On 2009-06-16, AF6AY wrote:
>>>> ... The
>>>> majority of active amateur radio operators, on the
>>>> basis of written communications on forums, is
>>>> largely confined to HF. Local situations don't
>>>> need HF to effect local emergency communications.
>
>>> And maybe amateurs who operate HF are largely uninterested
>>> in handling emergency communications.
>
>> With respect, I disagree. It's not the band that counts: it's the
>> attitude.
>
> Having passed my only amateur radio license test a bit over 2 years
> ago, I object to the word "attitude." To those who wish to make a case
> in favor of EmComm as some moral or civic duty by radio amateurs are,
> in my opinion, confusing citizenship duty with an avocational pursuit.
> Amateur radio is a voluntary activity done for personal pleasure. [snip]

When I mentioned "attitude", I was referring to Mr. Haynes' statement,
inferring that hams who use HF are "largely uninterested" in EmComm. The
point I made is that it's the attitude of the participants that
determines how effective they are at EmComm, not which mode or band they
use to get the job done.

I respectfully disagree that hams don't have a civic duty to help with
EmComm where possible: I won't presume to dictate morality, but I feel
that a ham operator who are in a position to do so should help to
prepare for and recover from natural disasters, in the same way that
ordinary citizens fill sandbags, carry food, or give rides to others who
need to relocate.

>> Hams who favor HF also practice emergency communications every
>> year at field day, and stand ready to provide "over the rainbow" service
>> when disaster response forces need supplies, support, and advice that's
>> not available locally.
>
> I am 76 years old. I've been familiar with amateur radio activities
> since 61 years ago, visiting a Field Day setup in my home town in 1947
> (at request of the late Gene Hubbell, then W9ERU). I've helped

> slightly on two other Field Days in California well before I've been
> licensed as an amateur but long after licensed as a Commercial radio
> operator. Based on my long observation of Field Day practices, my
> judgement is that it is - de facto - an excuse for a radio operation
> contest held in the open on a summer weekend. More of a "nice day in
> the park among radio buddies" and an excuse to get away from regular
> weekend family duties.

Yes, of course it is. Some who attend Field Day discover that they like
the challenge, and go on to further their EmComm training and to upgrade
their own and their station's capabilities. Some don't. That doesn't
mean that hams should stop Field Day, or any other event that introduces
new hams to the EmComm part of our hobby.

> By contrast, a very REAL emergency happened in Los Angeles on January
> 17, 1994, at approximately 4:30 AM...the dark morning hours, good for
> observing a total lack of primary electrical power. No warnings, no
> scheduling ahead of time for at least a half year before. At least it
> was a warmer-than-usual morning in Los Angeles 15 years ago. There was
> no evidence that local amateur radio field setups were done until two
> days after the earthquake hit. In my opinion, REAL emergency training
> should be done to familiarize participants with the rigors of
> unexpected situations, or having to work with what is available then,
> not at some scheduled park-outing with or without barbeque in pleasant,
> comradely surroundings.

Well, let's be frank: recruiting sergeants don't show up at a High
School or college with combat fatigues covered in mud and blood, and
Olympic athletes don't start their ski training on the "Double Diamond"
slopes, either. The rigors of unexpected situations can be met by the
rigors of thorough training, careful indoctrination, frequent drills,
and teamwork: Field Day may be an excuse to get away from mowing the
lawn for most hams, but some will discover a new and demanding path to
further achievement, and everyone has to start somewhere.

"REAL" emergency training can only occur during real emergencies, but
those best able to make the grade in that arena will be those who were
willing and able to plod through the steps in between a Field Day outing
and a "Jump Team" assignment. Field Day is a _starting_ point, not an
end in itself: some choose to go further, and some don't, and either
choice is valid.

> As to the contest activity which I consider the main aspect of Field
> Day, if it really has some EmComm training, then let thar be oriented
> towards real emergency conditions such as saving life (however
> simulated), ability to pass requests on any kind of supplies accurately
> (certainly medical supply nomenclature, including complex medicine
> names). There are no Field Day contest scores for that or similar REAL
> emergency communications needs...only scores for how many other field
> day stations are contacted and with what kind of mode or modulation.
> Every other radio service that does any kind of emergency plan training
> does not base its activity on how many other emergency stations are

> contacted. They are planned, organized, trained to work within their
> radio service grouping or in liason with other radio service groups. I
> will respectfully suggest finding out how the Los Angeles Emergency
> Communictions Center does its planning, organization and training.
> They were ready and equipped before 1994.

I agree. The original scoring plan for Field Day was obviously dictated by the limits of manual labor: the League had to receive, correlate, and total results by hand; ergo, a simple scoring system was in order. With personal computers available, the effort of entering, checking, and reporting on Field Day logs can be largely automated, so your idea to make the exchanges more challenging is a good step in the right direction.

This is a place where the experience of the past may best be used to train for the future: operators could be rated on various optional "real world" tests such as copying messages from a central point (like the ARRL broadcasts), or on their ability to pass complicated traffic accurately in timed tests, or on their performance in tearing down, packing, moving, and reestablishing a station, all of which are routine tasks in actual emergencies.

73,

Bill, W1AC

281. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 24 (Friday, June 19, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-19 21:23:09 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090619212240.7BEA931635@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1991
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 24
June 19, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Pacific Division Vice Director Steps Down; Appointment Fills Vacancy

* + FCC Chairman Nominee Genachowski, Current Commissioner McDowell Face
Confirmation Hearings
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* + WX4NHC Announces On-the-Air Station Test Results
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+ ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July
+ ARRL Contest Update Offers Valuable Information for All
Jim Tabor, KU5S (SK)
Longtime ARRL Staffer Robert L. Lincoln Passes Away

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

REMINDER: Be sure to check out the ARRL Field Day Locator for a Field
Day site near you! You can find the Field Day Locator on the ARRL Web
site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>.

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> PACIFIC DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR STEPS DOWN; APPOINTMENT FILLS VACANCY

Citing family and business reasons, ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director
Andy Oppel, N6AJO, has submitted his resignation. President Joel
Harrison, W5ZN, has appointed Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, of Oakland,
California, to serve the remainder of the current term through the end
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of 2010.

Oppel had served as Vice Director since being appointed in 2003 to complete the term of Bob Vallio, W6RGG, who became Director upon the death of Jim Maxwell, W6CF. In a message posted to the East Bay Section Web page, he commented: "I regret to inform you that family and work issues have forced me to resign as your ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director. I have enjoyed being able to serve you in that capacity for the past 6+ years and as East Bay Section Manager for 3 years prior to that. I very much appreciate the support and friendship offered by many of you and I hope I still get a chance to see many of you from time to time."

First licensed in 1970 as WN9ELU, Tiemstra, an attorney, is an Amateur Extra class licensee. He has also held the call signs WB9ELU and N6OIK. "I'm thrilled at the opportunity to serve an organization that I have been a member of for my entire Amateur Radio career," Tiemstra said. "I have known of and supported Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio's efforts at the League for many years, and look forward to the opportunity of working with him in those endeavors. I am deeply honored to be chosen to fill the vacancy left by Andy's resignation. Because Amateur Radio certainly has enriched and added value to many aspects of my life, I am elated to have the opportunity to contribute something back to the hobby. The future of Amateur Radio is at a critical crossroads that will involve our appeal to youth."

Tiemstra told the ARRL that his favorite Amateur Radio activities are "contesting -- I seem to have more wallpaper than wall -- DXing with 300 confirmed entities and DXpeditions, a poor but adequate excuse for a vacation. I have operated as 3D2TJ, PJ2/K6JAT and KH6/K6JAT and from V26DX, but I have long been involved in the public service aspects of Amateur Radio."

As a member of the Oakland ARES group, Tiemstra responded to the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the 1991 Oakland Hills firestorm. He worked with Oakland area hams and city officials to gain RACES recognition and was instrumental in forging a formal Letter of Understanding <http://www.ww6or.com/LOU_Oakland_RACES.pdf>. In addition, he assisted Oakland ARES/RACES in successfully championing a proposal to use post-firestorm, bond Measure I funds to acquire and install Amateur Radio equipment in the Oakland's Emergency Operations Center and each of its 30 fire stations. This has been dubbed the Emergency Communication Ham Operation (ECHO) system. Tiemstra also served as Oakland's RACES Radio Officer for more than 14 years.

In 1998, Tiemstra acted as the incorporator of the Oakland Radio Communication Association (ORCA) <http://www.ww6or.com/>, an ARRL affiliated club; he was a founding director and became its first president. He is a member of ORCA's board of directors and trustee of the club's call sign WW6OR. Tiemstra is a member of the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC) <http://www.nccc.cc/>, the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) <http://www.qcwa.org/> and 10-10

International <http://www.ten-ten.org/>. Tiemstra and his wife, Lilah, KE6EHD, have twin boys, Robert and Matthew, KI6IHP.

==> FCC CHAIRMAN NOMINEE GENACHOWSKI, CURRENT COMMISSIONER MCDOWELL FACE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS

On June 16, Julius Genachowski -- the man President Barack Obama picked to head the Federal Communications Commission -- and current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell appeared before the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee for their confirmation hearing. The Committee voted 24-1 to approve Genachowski's nomination and unanimously approved McDowell for his first full term as a Commissioner, sending their names to the full Senate to be confirmed.

President Obama nominated Genachowski to lead the Commission on March 3, 2009 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/03/10684/?nc=1>; the president renominated McDowell to his post on June 2 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/03/10859/>. Genachowski is a Democratic nominee, while McDowell is a Republican. Only three Commissioners may be members of the same political party.

At his confirmation hearing, the Chairman of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D-WV) told Genachowski that he wants "an FCC that is transparent, that inspires confidence and that makes our digital infrastructure a model for the world. Tragically, this has not been the case for some time. Let me be very clear about the challenge before you. Fix this agency or we will fix it for you."

Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND) praised Genachowski for having the "perfect background" to run the FCC. He then added, "It seems to me that you will lead a rather unhealthy agency. We've been through a period of substantial secrecy."

Senator Rockefeller noted that during former Chairman Kevin J. Martin's tenure, the FCC was under congressional investigation for mismanagement <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/12/10505> and the focus of criticism by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) for its lack of transparency and potential misuse of data. Late last year, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce -- the congressional committee that oversees the FCC -- released its majority staff report "on the bipartisan investigation of the FCC's regulatory processes and management practices." The report -- "Deception and Distrust: The Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Kevin J. Martin" -- stated that the investigation was prompted "by allegations to the effect that [FCC] Chairman Kevin J. Martin has abused FCC procedures by manipulating or suppressing reports, data and information" <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/FCC_Report120908.pdf>.

Genachowski assured the Committee that his career "inside and outside government has convinced [him] that the FCC can be a model for excellence in government, fighting for consumers and families, fostering

investment and innovation, through open, fair, and data-driven processes -- a 21st century agency for the information age. The FCC should consult closely with Congress, and work effectively and efficiently for the American people."

In his testimony, McDowell said the Commission should focus on attracting capital investment to the communications sector, adding that the wireless sector is becoming increasingly important. "I will work to support policies that will promote vigorous growth in the broadband markets to ensure that all Americans have access to the promise of high-speed Internet services and that the Internet remains robust, open and safe," he told the Committee.

Sources on Capitol Hill have said that Genachowski should be confirmed by the time the Senate recesses for the July 4 holiday.

For a video stream of the confirmation hearings, please visit the Web site of the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee <http://commerce.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.LiveStream&Hearing_id=bca080f3-15a0-4d05-8abd-77f5327a2cb7>.

==> W1AW, WA6ZTY TO CONDUCT DUAL-TONE FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST IN JULY

The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW, and WA6ZTY on the West Coast will conduct a summer Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) on July 1 at 9:45 PM EDT (0145 UTC on July 2) <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt>. According to FMT Coordinator H. Ward Silver, N0AX, the format will be a "do-over" of the dual-tone test conducted in November 2008: "The timing glitches that occurred during the November test have been ironed out, so the format will be repeated to give everyone another opportunity to make measurements."

Silver said that both stations will transmit on a carrier frequency of 3597.5 and 7095 kHz; these are the W1AW digital bulletin frequencies. Two audio tones between 2000 and 2500 Hz will be transmitted in an alternating sequence, with a shift between 100 and 500 Hz. This is similar to what is used for RTTY communication. Beginning on 80 meters, Tone 1 will be transmitted for 10 seconds, followed by Tone 2 for 10 seconds. The tones will then alternate until each tone has been transmitted six times, for a total transmission of 120 seconds. The transmitting station will then change to 40 meters -- after identifying in Morse code -- and repeat the two-tone sequence.

All transmissions for announcing the test, identification and band changes will be in CW at 15 WPM (18 WPM character speed). CW transmissions will be on the carrier frequency, with each lasting more than one minute.

Time Sequence for W1AW (begins at 9:45 PM EDT [0145 UTC July 2, 2009]):
* QST and test announcement on 80 meters.
* Repeat six times: 10 seconds of T1 followed by 10 seconds of T2. This is a total of 120 seconds of transmission.
* ID and notice of QSY to 40 meters.

* QST and test announcement on 40 meters.
* Repeat six times: 10 seconds of T1 followed by 10 seconds of T2. This is a total of 120 seconds of transmission.
* Announce conclusion of W1AW transmission and ID.

Time Sequence for WA6ZTY (begins at 10 PM EDT [0200 UTC July 2, 2009])
* QST and test announcement on 80 meters.
* Repeat six times: 10 seconds of T1 followed by 10 seconds of T2. This is a total of 120 seconds of transmission.
* ID and notice of QSY to 40 meters.
* There will be a pause of five minutes while WA6ZTY reconfigures for 40 meters.
* QST and test announcement on 40 meters.
* Repeat six times: 10 seconds of T1 followed by 10 seconds of T2. This is a total of 120 seconds of transmission.
* Announce conclusion of WA6ZTY transmission and CW ID.

According to Silver, the FMT has been run in the past where a modulated carrier or audio tones are held steady for a very long time. "This 'classic' carrier frequency FMT format will return in November," he said. "The new format addresses the growing importance of digital modes. The challenge of this format is to make quick, accurate measurements of the characteristics of a digital signal where the tones do not stay steady for a long period of time. It's not expected that the level of accuracy demonstrated for a long-tone test will be achieved for these short tone transmissions -- that's not the point."

Silver said that he predicts there will be a future FMT that will conduct a true-FSK test. "In this future test, there would be four variables: Carrier frequency, Audio Tone 1, Audio Tone 2 and Shift," he said. "Given the value of any one of the variables in advance, two of the remaining variables would be measured and the final variable calculated or measured. The symbol rate (the number of transitions per second) would be representative of actual digital signals. For example, a 60 WPM RTTY signal."

Silver said that this can present some challenges to FMT participants: "One of the reasons we conduct the FMTs goes back to FCC Part 97.1(c): '...advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the [radio] art.' We look forward to seeing the creativity and innovation of the measurement community applied to this new format" <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr97.1.pdf>.

Participants should send their FMT reports -- indicating their values of Tone 1, Tone 2 and Shift (the difference between the tones) -- via the Web data collection form <http://www.b4h.net/fmt/fmtentry.php> by July 8. The published results will evaluate error in Tone 1, Tone 2 and Shift. "Be sure to include the details of how you made the measurements, obstacles you faced and how you overcame them," Silver said. "It will make great reading and sharing in the best traditions of Amateur Radio. If you have pictures or diagrams, please send them <fmt@arrl.org> so that they can be posted on the FMT Web page"

<http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/>.

==> CHECK OUT THE JULY/AUGUST NCJ

The July/August issue of NCJ, The National Contest Journal, is filled with the latest news from the contesting world. Whether you are new to contesting or are a seasoned pro -- or somewhere in the middle -- you will find something in NCJ just for you <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>.

If you're in the market for a new rig, you will want to check out "Choosing an HF Radio for Serious Contesting and DXing" by R. Scott Wright, K0MD. In the first of a multi-part article, John Barcroft, K6AM, takes a look at "A 3 Element Reversible Wire Yagi for 80 Meters." One year after the introduction of CW Skimmer, Pete Smith, N4ZR, gives his perspective in "CW Skimmer One Year Later."

This issue also features "NCJ Profiles" and "NCJ Club Spotlight": Tom Menas, K3WT, introduces us to Dave Mueller, N2NL, of Key West, Florida, while Bob Nash, VE3KZ, takes us inside the Contest Club Ontario.

If you've been waiting to see how you did in the January and February contests, you definitely don't want to miss this issue! Shelby Summerville, K4WW, give readers the rundown on the February 2009 NAQP RTTY Contest. Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, looks at the results of the January 2009 NAQP CW and SSB Contests. Jim Stevens, K4MA, gives his take on the February 2009 North American Phone Sprint and members of the Boring Amateur Radio Club ponder the February 2009 North American CW Sprint.

Of course, there are all the regular columns and features you expect from NCJ: "Workshop Chronicles," by Don Daso, K4ZA; "Contest Tips, Tricks & Techniques," by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT; "VHF-UHF Contesting," by Jon Jones, N0JK; "DX Contest Activity Announcements," by Bill Feidt, NG3K; "RTTY Contesting," by Don Hill, AA5AU, and "Contesting 101," by Kirk Pickering, K4RO.

All this and more in the July/August issue of NCJ. NCJ is published six times a year by the ARRL; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. NCJ is what every contester needs in their shack -- subscribe today <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>.

==> ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTES CONTINUE THROUGH SUMMER

The second and third sessions of the ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology of 2009 have wrapped up in Rocklin, California and Tucson, Arizona <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. These two TIs mark the first time that the ARRL has offered simultaneous sessions of the popular summer program for teachers. According to Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, the addition of two new TI instructors made it possible to hold two sessions at the same time. "With Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, and Nathan McCray, K9CPO, on board," Spencer said, "we are able to hold more sessions, and in turn, involve more teachers into learning how to bring wireless technology into their classrooms."

In Tucson, Enriquez led a group of local teachers through the four day curriculum that includes basic electronics, the science of radio, space in the classroom, microcontroller programming and basic robotics. "The Tucson Teachers Institute went wonderfully," he told the ARRL. "I saw lots of smiles, heads nodding in understanding and teachers espousing intended commitment to provide a return on investment."

Spencer led the other session group at the Parallax facility in Northern California. "This group was more geographically diverse," he said, "with teachers from nine states from coast to coast." McCray will lead a session in Michigan that begins on June 29.

Each Teachers Institute session includes 12 teachers. According to Spencer, the curriculum is information packed and intensive. "This year," Spencer said, "we tried to connect the teachers in the Tucson session with the teachers in the California session via an AO-27 contact; satellites are part of the space in the classroom unit. Unfortunately, this was not successful due to unforeseen complications with accessing the satellite; however, a later attempt to demonstrate ham radio space technology was successful."

The final day of the Teachers Institute is dedicated to basic robotics; this unit ties together all of the other content areas taught during the Teachers Institute. There are five more Teachers Institutes scheduled over the next two months. Spencer said that "the aggressive schedule and increased number of teachers participating this year -- 84 -- is testament to the success of this ARRL Educational and Technology program that is supported by the generous League donors who share a passion for education"
<https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/education/2008/>.

==> WX4NHC ANNOUNCES ON-THE-AIR STATION TEST RESULTS

WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>, conducted its annual On-The-Air Station Test on Saturday, May 30, 2009 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/15/10821/>. According to Assistant WX4NHC Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, the station conducted the test to promote awareness of the 2009 hurricane season <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/06/10862/?nc=1> and to verify station equipment performance on the many frequencies and modes that are used to communicate with other stations in affected areas during hurricanes. WX4NHC has been at the NHC for 29 years.

Ripoll said that WX4NHC station was on the air for nine hours, making 154 contacts with stations in the US, the Caribbean, Central America, Canada, Australia, Europe and Africa. "Most contacts made on HF were done using phone (SSB) and on the Hurricane Watch Net <http://www.hwn.org/> frequency of 14.325 MHz, as well as 7.268 MHz in cooperation with the Waterway Net <http://www.waterwayradio.net/>," he said. "We also made contacts using HF and VHF APRS <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/aprs/>, and local VHF and UHF repeaters in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties."

Ripoll said that the VoIP Hurricane Net <http://www.voipwx.net/> conducted a two hour simulated Hurricane Net on EchoLink (WX_TALK conference) and IRLP (node 9219) using the same methods of collecting and forwarding data to WX4NHC during hurricanes with great success: "We extend special thanks to Rob Macedo, KD1CY, and the VoIP Hurricane Net Controls for their dedication and continued support of WX4NHC."

On behalf of the WX4NHC Coordinators and operators, Ripoll thanked all the Amateur Radio operators who participated in the WX4NHC Annual Station Test: "We look forward to your continued support during the hurricane season." For a QSL card from the test, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Julio Ripoll, WD4R, 14855 SW 67 Ln, Miami, FL 33193-2027.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Spread their wild hues to the sultry Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: I bet you have this memorized: "Solar activity was very low throughout the reporting period, and geomagnetic field activity was at quiet levels during most of the reporting period." Enough said? The first sunspot region of Solar Cycle 24 occurred on January 4, 2008. Since then, though, Solar Cycle 24 spots have been few and far between. A good summary of this solar minimum can be made in two statements. The first statement is that the duration of this solar minimum is unusual compared to the other solar minimums in our lifetime. That's because from the minimum between Solar Cycle 17 and 18 onward, solar minimums have been roughly two years. Thus we've only been exposed to "short" solar minimum periods. A look at all history shows a different story and brings us to the second statement. This solar minimum, which is going on three years now, is pretty much average in duration compared to all history. What this all says is the Sun has been highly variable throughout recorded history. Sunspot numbers for June 11-17 were 0, 12, 0, 0, 0 and 11 with a mean of 3.3. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.3, 69, 68.2, 68.1, 67.4, 68.3 and 67.8 with a mean of 68.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 2, 4, 6, 4, 3 and 3 with a mean of 3.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 1, 3, 4, 4, 4 and 1 with a mean of 2.7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Clare's "June" <http://johnclare.blogspot.com/2006/03/from-june-in-anticipation.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for the ARRL Kids Day Contest on June 20. The NCCC Sprint Ladder and the Digital Pentathlon are June 19. The Feld Hell Sprint and the AGCW VHF/UHF Contest are June 20. On June 20-21, look for the West Virginia QSO Party and the All Asian DX Contest (CW). The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is June 22 and the SKCC

Sprint is June 24. Next week ARRL Field Day is on June 27-28 -- look for a Field Day site near you <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>. The NCCC Sprint and the Digital Pentathlon are on June 26. On June 27-28, check out the His Majesty King of Spain Contest (SSB), the Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest, the Marconi Memorial HF Contest and the ARCI Milliwatt Field Day. The SARL Digital Contest is June 28 and the RAC Canada Day Contest is July 1. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 28, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 10, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 3. There will be no ARRL Audio News, W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. The ARRL Letter will be posted a day early on Thursday, July 2. League Headquarters will reopen Monday, July 6 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and festive holiday weekend.

* ARRL Contest Update Offers Valuable Information for All: Every two weeks, H. Ward Silver, N0AX, produces the ARRL Contest Update. Each issue is jam-packed with information for all operators -- be they involved in radiosport or not -- operating and technical tips, propagation information and a focus on a technical Web site each issue. Of course, everything you need to know about upcoming contests is right there at your fingertips. Since the ARRL Contest Update is available in HTML, there is a link to the rules for each individual contest listed, as well as pictures. ARRL members can subscribe the ARRL Contest Update

on the ARRL Web site
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/about.html#get>.

* Jim Tabor, KU5S (SK): Jim Tabor, KU5S, passed away at his home in Greenwood, Arkansas on May 27; he was 54. A longtime ARRL member, Tabor was head of Kangaroo Tabor Software <http://www.taborsoft.com/>, which published various programs for radio amateurs, such as the WinCAP propagation prediction software, GeoAlert-Extreme Wizard, Beacon-Time Wizard and ID Wizard. Dean Straw, N6BV, who edited several recent editions of The ARRL Antenna Book <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>, remembered Tabor fondly: "Over the course of about a dozen years, Jim provided ARRL with some of his most innovative propagation programs, and allowed us to include them on the CD-ROM accompanying The ARRL Antenna Book. I worked closely with Jim on several such projects, and he was always thorough and analytic in his approach to such collaborations. But more than that, Jim was simply a great guy to work with. I shall miss his unfailingly polite and down-home, gentle demeanor. Jim will remain in my memory a soft-spoken, gentle and talented man, a true gentleman."

* Longtime ARRL Staffer Robert L. Lincoln Passes Away: Robert Lincoln, 94, of Westbrook, Connecticut, passed away at his home on June 13. After his retirement at age 65 from Addressograph Multigraph, Lincoln came to work at ARRL to run the League's in-house printing press. He retired from the ARRL in January 2007 at age 92 after 27 years of service <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=7140>. Around the ARRL HQ building, he was affectionately known as "Mr Lincoln," carrying out his various printing tasks largely out of the public spotlight. A memorial service is planned for June 18 at Swan Funeral Home in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,

k1sfa@arrl.org
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282. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-19 21:45:29 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <OFT_I.3387$n01.1530@newsfe15.iad>
Source record: 1992

Hello Jim,

There are so many aspects of emergency communications that it would seem even a basic training would be imperative.

Field Day might encourage folks to make as many contacts as possible under difficult conditions (not to mention how to string that dipole), but one might be under pressure to establish communications with a *specific* station, or group of stations, and some practice certainly can't hurt.

I remember when my employer sent me for 'radio training'. It was a blast. Most interesting, however, once we finished passing 'encrypted' messages using voice on VHF (it helps to know both phonetic alphabets), we tried HF running low (5 watts) power. We were located perhaps 10 miles from the plant where another HF radio was set up. A dipole was strung (5 feet off of the ground?) and - nothing. Finally I piped up and mentioned that the plant happened to be located roughly in the direction the dipole lay in! A quick rotation of 90 degrees and the trainer hit the button to seek out the best frequency. A couple more button presses and one of the guy's cell phone went off. He answered it and it was the instructor's voice that came out of it. HF to the commercial telephone lines. It did help to stop and think in what direction you wanted your signal to go LOL. This might also apply to VHF/UHF in that the terrain can make a big difference. Where does one place a temporary 'repeater'?

Certainly the basic training is necessary, but I believe there will have to be further *standardized* training as well.

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

Well, I agree and disagree...

Emergency preparedness and training, at a basic level, are certainly an important part of Field Day. If nothing else, actually going out, setting up a Field Day station and operating it can be a great learning experience. Particularly for the person without a background in such things. I mean we have to start somewhere!

But there's a lot more to Field Day than that, IMHO. It's also a social event, a camping trip, a radiosport contest, a chance to experiment with rigs, power sources, antennas, modes, bands and locations, and much more.

I've gone out on every ARRL Field Day since about 1967 and every one has been a unique and fun new experience. Of course a lot of that is "the attitude" one brings to it.

Emergencies come in all sizes and forms, and there isn't a one-size-fits-all response. An emergency can be as small as a stranded motorist who gets help via ham radio to a major disaster such as a hurricane, flood, or blizzard. All of them have different characteristics and need different responses. The degree to which the authorities can handle them varies all over the place; just look at the Hurricane Katrina disaster, or what happens when a snowstorm hits a part of the country that's not used to snow.

Of course as the communication infrastructure has matured, many situations that used to commonly need our help are now usually handled by other means. It wasn't that long ago when 911 calls via autopatch were a near-daily occurrence here; now they are rare because almost everyone has a cell phone.

73 de Jim, N2EY

283. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-20 16:44:37 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <a3910bf9-6546-40f0-a689-2a2ad3c6ddd1@k20g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1993

On Jun 19, 10:18 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@AOL.COM wrote:
> > If nothing else, actually going out,
> > setting up a Field Day station and operating it can be a great learning
> > experience.
>
> I think that the key words in what you said are "can be". There
are
> people who come to Field Day just for the social aspects or the contest
> aspects. And that's fine; the hobby is plenty broad enough to en
compass
> many different interests and far be it from me to force my preferences
> on anyone else.

Exactly. In fact, a single Amateur Radio activity such as Field Day is broad enough to encompass many different interests. As long as one follows the rules and good amateur practice, there's an enormously wide range of things that are Field Day.

For example, over the years I've had the opportunity to operate a wide variety of rigs, modes and bands on Field Day, rather than being limited to my own setup at home. And by "operate", I mean "make hundreds of contacts over several hours under all sorts of conditions". Product reviews and lab reports are nice but actually using a rig under contest conditions will tell you a lot more about what it can or can't do.

> The part that I find somewhat amusing is the idea that you can judge the
> state of training for emergency communications by visiting one Field Day
> operation.

Some people make all sorts of judgements based on limited information.

>They're all different, depending on the interests of the
> participants. There are operations that are primarily social in
which
> there is little learning taking place, and there are others that are
> very serious attempts to experiment and learn to prepare for
> emergencies. There's nothing wrong with this; FD provides an
> opportunity to do what the group wants to do.

I would say that there are operations which are primarily social in which all sorts of learning takes place. All sorts of variations; every FD operation has a different theme.

> But as you point out, you've got to start somewhere, and even the most
> social-oriented operation still provides exposure to different aspects
> of the hobby for people who may not have seen it before.

Exactly! But it all depends on the attitude. If a person who wants a serious emergency-preparedness exercise goes to a socially-oriented FD operation, s/he is likely to be disappointed. Same as if a casual operator goes to a contest-oriented setup. I heard of one club that purposely set up two different operations under two calls on a large site; one was "serious" and the other was "casual".

As for exposure to different aspects on FD, here are a couple of stories....

- Some years back, I converted a BC-453 "Q5er" and built an 80/40 meter converter for it, complete with dynamotor power supply. All this setup needs is 12 volts DC and a piece of wire tossed over a tree branch in order to receive.

I put the whole works into a cardboard box and brought it along to FD without telling the others. This group usually missed out on the bonus points for copying the W1AW bulletin.

Around 10 AM everyone was busy setting up, but I stopped work, set up the BC-453 on the hood of my car, donned the cans and proceeded to copy the W1AW bulletin - on CW, of course. In a few minutes I'd earned the first 100 points, even before the FD period started.

The BC-453/converter/dynamotor setup became a focal point of discussion. Old-timers remembered when they'd used WW2 surplus, while newcomers were intrigued by the dynamotor and the homebrew setup. More than one had never seen such operations before.

- There was one FD where a relatively-new ham came into the CW tent. He had his Extra, could do 20+ wpm but wasn't really a contest op, and was a bit shy to ask to operate.

So I invited him to watch and listen, which he did for a while. Then I asked him to keep the dupe sheet, which he did quite well once shown how.

Once he had the hang of that, I gave him the log sheet too. We were rolling along and making Sunday-morning S&P QSOs at a decent clip, and he was getting the idea.

Then I had him do the sending while I found the new ones and told him which to call and when. Little by little I did less and let him do more. Eventually all I was doing was keeping the dupe sheet while he ran the show.

No, he didn't turn into a hotshot CW contest op in the hour or two this all took, but he sure learned a lot, earned a lot of points and had a lot of fun.

Did I mention this ham was 12 years old?

Got a lot more stories....

>&#65533;FD is one of
> the Good Parts of the hobby.

One of the many Good Parts!

73 de Jim, N2EY

284. Which way to point my 2-meter yagi: north or south?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-21 02:08:16 UTC
From: David <david@drumheller.org>
Message-ID: <83e1f6ec-6e79-4758-bc37-291f4cd00691@q14g2000vbn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1994

I have a 2-meter yagi antenna on my roof that cannot be rotated. Iï¿½d like to re-mount it with horizontal polarization for SSB, but have to permanently aim it in one direction. I live near Washington, DC, so which direction would you VHF enthusiasts recommend? North towards New England or south towards the Carolinas? The objective is to maximize the number of stations I can contact.

-Dave Drumheller, K3WQ

285. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-21 05:29:09 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h1kgek$9o1$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1995

<N2EY@AOL.COM> wrote in message
news:07f8c3b1-a033-4228-b4f2-7ca2a355592d@x5g2000yqk.googlegroups.com...

>
> Anybody (besides me) going to participate?
>

K0CKB and I will operate from our RV, class 1B, at Lake Vermilion next to the BWCA. This is a very laid-back operation, non-competitive, likely to be interrupted by boat trips out to Stove Top reef or Wakemup Bay if someone reports a walleye bite in progress. The only "emergency communications" component of our operation would be if we run out of charcoal, bait, or ice, and need to call for a resupply.

--
73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

286. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-21 13:28:02 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7a6qqpF1sqij5U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1996

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

> - There was one FD where a relatively-new ham came into the CW tent. He
> had his Extra, could do 20+ wpm but wasn't really a contest op, and was
> a bit shy to ask to operate.
>
> So I invited him to watch and listen, which he did for a while. Then I
> asked him to keep the dupe sheet, which he did quite well once shown
> how.
>
> Once he had the hang of that, I gave him the log sheet too. We were
> rolling along and making Sunday-morning S&P QSOs at a decent clip, and
> he was getting the idea.
>
> Then I had him do the sending while I found the new ones and told him
> which to call and when. Little by little I did less and let him do
> more. Eventually all I was doing was keeping the dupe sheet while he
> ran the show.
>
> No, he didn't turn into a hotshot CW contest op in the hour or two this
> all took, but he sure learned a lot, earned a lot of points and had a
> lot of fun.
>
> Did I mention this ham was 12 years old?

I love this story, Jim. That 12-year-old could have been me, back when dirt was new.

And I want to comment on how important this kind of mentoring (or as we tend to call it in ham radio, "elmering") is to the hobby. I subscribe to a discussion group populated by ham radio instructors. These guys have endless discussions about what teaching technique works the best, arcane aspects of individual questions in the pool, and all the minutiae of teaching ham radio classes, and that's fine; that's what the group is for. Some of them realize that the classroom experience is just the start of someone's ham radio career, but a lot of them are so focused on their teaching that they have lost the importance of elmering.

Yes, getting that ticket is important. You'll not be a ham without passing the FCC exam. But my experience is that vanishingly few people who pass the exam will end up as active hams without local support. They need real people to encourage them and to impart real-world information, just like the example in your story.

Field Day is one way to provide that. It better not be the _only_ way, but it sure is a great opportunity to expose people to aspects of the

hobby that they might not otherwise see.

73, Steve KB9X

287. ECOM-L and NIMS WAS Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-21 13:50:37 UTC
From: KC5FM <colstonl@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <74acad55-6b9b-45de-b638-f2ab2e789af9@e20g2000vbc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1997

On Jun 19, 4:45 pm, "Jim Hampton" <aa...@frontiernet.net> wrote:

> what direction you wanted your signal to go LOL. This might also apply
to
> VHF/UHF in that the terrain can make a big difference. Where does one
place
> a temporary 'repeater'?

Just one of the items mentioned in Communications Leader (COM-L)
training. :)

>
> Certainly the basic training is necessary, but I believe there will have
to
> be further *standardized* training as well.
>

Yes sir!

This is what the National Incident Management System is all about.
Standardized training is about knowing what Logistics does and where
Communications fits within it.

The Communications Leader training class I attended had a number of
hams there. There were also non-hams there. From a public
information officer perspective, if we are going to fight like we
train, then perhaps there would be a reason for training with the
people with which we will fight.

>From the COM-L web page, "This COML training will qualify emergency
responders as lead radio communications coordinators if they possess
the necessary prerequisites, including knowledge of local
communications; communications systems; and local, regional, and state
communications plans. COML responsibilities include developing plans
for the effective use of incident communications equipment and
facilities, managing the distribution of communications equipment to
incident personnel, and coordinating the installation and testing of
communications equipment."

http://www.safecomprogram.gov/SAFECOM/currentprojects/comltraining/ is
the COM-L page. The Training is free. One would get more information
from the local emergency management office, the training officer at
the State Emergency Management or Homeland Security office, or contact
the the SAFECOM Program at 1-866-969-SAFE.

Many of the prerequisites are found at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/
NIMS.asp> where, again, the training is free. College hours can also

be obtained after successful completion, but this is NOT free.

This is also the premise behind the American Radio Relay League's
Emergency Communications courses. While these courses are not free,
there have been grants available to pay for them. You might contact
the League after you review http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/07/107
56/.
Again, you may contact your local emergency management office to
volunteer. IF there's training dollars available to take this class,
I don't know of any grant in place to pay for it, apart from the local
training budget.

There's your answer to Standardized Training.

73

Lloyd, KC5FM
http://kc5fm.blogspot.com

288. Re: Which way to point my 2-meter yagi: north or south?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-21 13:55:42 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9C315AC8BD60VeebleFetzer@85.214.105.209>
Source record: 1998

In news:83e1f6ec-6e79-4758-bc37-291f4cd00691@q14g2000vbn.googlegroups.com
David <david@drumheller.org> wrote:

> I have a 2-meter yagi antenna on my roof that cannot be rotated. I'd
> like to re-mount it with horizontal polarization for SSB, but have to
> permanently aim it in one direction. I live near Washington, DC, so
> which direction would you VHF enthusiasts recommend? North towards New
> England or south towards the Carolinas? The objective is to maximize
> the number of stations I can contact.

When I lived in Silver Spring MD, I made more contacts to the north than
south.

But that was 30 years ago.

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

289. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-21 17:50:48 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <nKt%l.293$9l4.223@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1999

> Field Day is one way to provide that. It better not be the _only_ way,
> but it sure is a great opportunity to expose people to aspects of the
> hobby that they might not otherwise see.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X
>

I agree. FD at least shows the gumption of people to show up and be able to get on the air away from home. Neat Elmer story. It shows the willingness, but there is much more to serious Emcom. Nims training at least puts forth the idea that in the absence of real emergencies, the best way to learn is from the lessons learned from those who went through it. Current state of the art recognizes local jurisdiction and responsibility while offering a system easily able to expand and contract as needed for efficient use of available resources.

I do have a problem with volunteer resources being exploited to fill a gap that should be properly funded. By that, I am referring to damage to local businesses that lead to a vacuum of professionals. I've gotten a lot of poopoo out of people who shouldn't be providing a free service when it should be performed on a regular basis by other means. Forcing the "other means" out of business is not a good answer. This happens when regular business masquerades as a training opportunity.

290. Re: NiCd battery packs

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-22 02:55:23 UTC
From: Steve Stone <n2ubp@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <h1mh3tqfm1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 2000

JB wrote:
> "Ivor Jones" <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote in message
> news:78pj37F1k7vn7U1@mid.individual.net...
> Nickel Metal Hydride cells are more direct replacements. Li-Ion are very
> different.
>

I was in a similar situation and opted for the Sanyo Eneloop AA batteries.
Sanyo says they will hold a charge for one year. (85 percent level)

291. FD Stories

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-22 02:56:41 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <a1c6ab47-9d17-4d9e-ba9e-089afba81201@q37g2000vbi.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1901

Jun 21, 9:28 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> N...@AOL.COM wrote:
> > - There was one FD where a
> > relatively-new ham came into the CW tent.
....
> > No, he didn't turn into a hotshot CW
> > contest op in the hour or two this
> > all took, but he sure learned a lot,
> > earned a lot of points and had a
> > lot of fun.
>
> > Did I mention this ham was 12 years old?
>
> I love this story, Jim.

As the great Durante used to say: "I got a million of em!"

It was about 8-10 years ago IIRC. Great fun and a little payback. Or should it be "pay-forward"?

Some more FD stories:

Way back in 1970, when I was 16, I went out with a local club that did a multiple-TX operation at W3FDY's place. (google the call, some neat old pics of Harry's setup0.

They let me run the 40 CW rig on the overnight shift. It was a Drake 4-line, which was quite a change from my homebrew, surplus and inexpensive-1950s-leftovers rigs. The setup had a bug, and I learned to use it pretty quick. It was set up in a garage, and fed a full-size 40 meter vertical.

Also in that garage was the 80 meter CW setup. It consisted of a Drake 2B and a Johnson Viking 500 with the cover off. Quite a light show! That setup had a high dipole.

The 80 CW position was staffed by two hams, one of whom operated and the other kept the log. The logger was blind and kept the log in Braille.

Whenever the blind amateur needed a break, one of us would guide him to whatever he needed. By the time it was fully dark, we discovered we didn't have flashlights. The blind ham had learned the routes so well that *he* would guide *us* sighted ops..

We made hundreds of contacts that night from those two setups. My code speed probably jumped 10 wpm in as many hours, and I didn't sleep a

wink for over 40 hours.

Meanwhile, up the hill, the 40 SSB station was doing quite a business too. They had a 5 element fixed wire Yagi at 70 feet pointed west, plus a high dipole. The Galaxy fed a pair of 450TLs in pushpull - there was some serious RF up there. They probably worked everything on 40 SSB including Radio Moscow. When a mobile in Hawaii gives you a 5-9 on 40 meters you know you're getting out.

Later that summer I passed the Extra. I suspect that what I learned on FD that year helped a little...

In the 1990s I did FD solo a couple of times. The best effort was 1995.

I had access to a farm meadow in NNJ for that effort. My car at the time was a VW Rabbit Diesel, and my rig was a homebrew 100-watt-output CW-only 80/40/20 meter transceiver known as the Southgate Type 7. I had developed a 41 foot wooden mast that could be put up by one person, had a generator, tent, table, and various other goodies. It was exactly 73 miles from home to the FD site.

So on the Friday before FD I packed everything up and set off to NNJ. At precisely 2 PM I began setup, and by about 6 PM it was all set to go. 80/40 trap inverted V, 20 meter vertical, homebrew rig, generator, tent, etc. 2 meter rig in the car was connected to a homebrew GP for simplex contacts on that band, because there was a bonus for them. No computer, no memory keyer, just paper log/dupe and the bug.

I went the whole period from 2 PM Saturday to 2 PM Sunday, stopping only to fuel the generator when it ran out of gas. While it cooled, I'd try 2 meters and make a contact or two. A soft drink and a sandwich from the cooler on the way back from the generator shelter kept me going.

The Type 7 is all-hollow-state, even to the rectifiers and regulators. Yes, you have to tune it up, too.

I wonder if any other 1995 FD station had 866As giving a light show at 3 AM.

Final tally was 629 CW and 11 FM QSOs. Not a winning score (I think I placed fourth in 1B-1 non-battery) but pretty good for the setup.

It was quite a challenge to do it single-handed; everything had to fit inside or on top of the Rabbit and not exceed its weight limit. Plus since it was a diesel I couldn't get gasoline from its tank if I miscalculated the generator's needs. I started with 7-1/2 gallons of gasoline in two containers; the last of it went into the generator tank about noon Sunday and the generator ran out of gas the last time 15 minutes after the 2 PM shutdown.

btw, it rained the entire time. No lightning, thankfully, and no downpour, just a gentle drizzle the whole time. Made it more of a sporting course, really.

If you have QST for June, 1994, check out page 55 for yet another story.

> That 12-year-old could have been me, back when
> dirt was new.

Or me.

I recall one FD (1968?) when I was still a very new ham. I wandered past the trailer where a crusty OT was running CW (80 or 40, I'm not sure) and filling up the log sheet faster than I'd ever seen it done.

There were several loud and fast CW signals crammed into the 500 Hz passband of the receiver, and I asked which one the OT was copying.

"All three, kid" was the reply. "Now go get me another beer"

I got him two, and watched/learned for quite a while. He never wasted a second or a motion; he knew precisely when to call, who to call, and what to send. It was a skillset that I knew must exist, but which I'd never seen up-close until then.

I promised myself then that one day I'd be the op in that chair.

> And I want to comment on how important
> this kind of mentoring (or as we
> tend to call it in ham radio, "elmering") is
> to the hobby. I subscribe
> to a discussion group populated by
> ham radio instructors. These guys
> have endless discussions about what
> teaching technique works the best,
> arcane aspects of individual questions
> in the pool, and all the minutiae
> of teaching ham radio classes, and
> that's fine; that's what the group is
> for. Some of them realize that the
> classroom experience is just the
> start of someone's ham radio career,
> but a lot of them are so focused on
> their teaching that they have lost the
> importance of elmering.

That's an interesting viewpoint.

> Yes, getting that ticket is important.
>You'll not be a ham without

> passing the FCC exam. ?But my
> experience is that vanishingly few people
> who pass the exam will end up as active
> hams without local support.
> They need real people to encourage
> them and to impart real-world
> information, just like the example in your story.

I think Elmering takes all sorts of forms, as the above stories show.
That op who said "all three, kid" sure had an effect on me, even though
I never knew his name or call.

Books can be great Elmers; much of what got me started and kept me
going were the practical articles in QST, the Handbook and other
publications. Theory is great and is needed, but it needs to be matched
by real- life examples.
>
> Field Day is one way to provide that.
>?It better not be the _only_ way,
> but it sure is a great opportunity to
> expose people to aspects of the
> hobby that they might not otherwise see.
>
Agreed!

One reason I stopped the solo-FD effort and went out with local clubs
some years back was the whole Elmering/demonstration part of it. It's
one thing to talk about, say, fast CW operation, homebrewing antennas,
networked computer logging or whatever, and another thing to show it to
folks who haven't really seen it before. I have found that often what
appears to be "socializing" can actually be an elmering session.

73 de Jim, N2EY

292. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-22 02:56:55 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <2pmt359raacobs8r6tbmltehpfrsubnlu2@4ax.com>
Source record: 1902

On Sun, 21 Jun 2009 01:29:09 EDT, Kï¿½HB <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote:

>> Anybody (besides me) going to participate?

AFAIK many clubs, certainly the larger ones, in Alberta will be
participating in Field Day.

Our group has managed to get our local MP, Member of Parliament, to
come out. That would be the equivalent of the US Congress person.
Do we get extra points for a federally elected official? <smile>

Tony

293. Nebraska Celebrates Amateur Radio Week

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-22 02:59:33 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090621165201.EAB5F30120@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1903
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,nebr.misc,nebr.gov,rec.radio.info

>From Jeff Beiermann, WB0M, Nebraska Section PIC

Nebraska Celebrates Amateur Radio Week

(Lincoln, NE) Nebraska will celebrate amateur radio week from June 22-28, 2009, thanks to a proclamation by Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman. This coincides with the annual Amateur Radio Relay League's (ARRL) Field Day exercise on June 27. Amateur radio operators are usually know has "hams."

"I'm happy to declare "amateur radio week" to thank all of the Nebraska ham radio operators," said Gov. Heineman. "These radio operations can be very helpful in our state, particularly in disaster preparation. I wish Nebraska hams success on their exercise."

The proclamation was presented to Jeff Bennet and Bob Mitchell of Lincoln representing the ARRL's Nebraska Section as part of a proclamation signing ceremony at the State Capitol Building in June 10.

Field Day is a 24-hour emergency communication exercise by amateur radio operators across the nation. The operators are usually from amateur radio clubs deploying to temporary locations, but any ham radio operator can participate.

It is a day of fellowship and fun with an underlying current of preparing for emergency communications. While many people think that the Internet and cell phone coverage are always at their finger tips, these ways of communicating can be silenced in a disaster.

Which is Field Day is an important exercise. Many hams operate using emergency power - and even green power - so that they are prepared in case of a disaster that disrupts the normal channels of communications.

Clubs and hams throughout Nebraska from Chadron to Falls City, Omaha to Scottsbluff, Norfolk to Hastings and in between will out on Field Day sharing not only camaraderie with each other, but also fine tuning their skills in emergency communications.

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
---

294. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-22 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1245650401@panix.com>
Source record: 1904
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

295. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-22 06:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1245650701@panix.com>
Source record: 1905
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

296. Re: NiCd battery packs

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-23 17:51:42 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid>
Message-ID: <7achpiF1tq67fU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1906

In news:h1mh3tqfm1@news.eternal-september.org,
Steve Stone <n2ubp@hotmail.com> typed, for some strange, unexplained
reason:
: JB wrote:
: > "Ivor Jones" <ivor@thisaddressis.invalid> wrote in message
: > news:78pj37F1k7vn7U1@mid.individual.net...
: > Nickel Metal Hydride cells are more direct replacements. Li-Ion
: > are very different.
: >
:
: I was in a similar situation and opted for the Sanyo Eneloop AA
: batteries. Sanyo says they will hold a charge for one year. (85
: percent level)

On what type of device..? Surely not a 5W 70cm handheld..?!

73 Ivor G6URP

297. Re: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-23 23:11:34 UTC
From: Fishy <blah@blah.com>
Message-ID: <Zmb0m.780$9l4.457@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1907

Bill

I ran the mars station on base in Sacramento in 1970-71-some of 72.....my dad had just returned from Vietnam, and I had just gotten my ticket which was WN6AKF at the time...patched many a call from Saigon to the states, we may have QSO'd.

One from the USS Kincade, I believe was the name.. a destroyer in the sea off Nam...from one really lonely guy to his folks in Nebraska....

We also had Collins gear, huge towers and beams, and a linear with 8-11a's in it....I also ran the local fm net on base also...was about 16 at the time....boy do I miss the warehouse full of surplus gear!

73's

Richard

"Bill Horne" <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote in message
news:2fOdnamrVqadA6_XnZ2dnUVZ_qmdnZ2d@speakeasy.net...
> According to the Amateur Radio Newsline report #1661:
>
>> RESTRUCTURING: NAVY-USMC MARS LIKELY TO GO QRT
>>
>> The days of Navy and Marine Corps MARS may be fast coming to an end.
>> This, according to a directive released by the commander of the Naval
>> Network Welfare Command. One that says that this branch of the
>> Military Affiliate Radio Services will terminate all operations at the
>> end of this summer.
>
> Although the Defense Department has the authority to cancel the "sunset"
> for Navy/Marine Corps MARS, it's very unlikely, so we say "Farewell" to a
> long chapter of Amateur Radio history.
>
> That will be a sad day, not only for me, but for hundreds, or perhaps
> thousands, of military and amateur operators. Those operators did an
> important job for the Navy and the Marine Corps: MARS gave sailors and
> Marines the chance to connect with their families from lonely overseas
> posts, and brought laughter, hometown news, and peace-of-mind to
> generations of servicemen.
>
> I had the honor of being one of those operators. Although I was in the
> Army, I ran the Navy-Marine Corts MARS station at Danang in 1971 and 1972,
> and I handled hundreds of phone patch calls for all comers, using a
> KWM-2A, a 30L-1, and a Millen transmatch feeding a Log Periodic at forty
> feet high. It was a labor of love for me: I had my regular duties to

> perform during daylight, and then I'd crank up the Collins gear at night.
>
> They says that the only constant is change. I wish it weren't so.
>
> Bill W1AC
> ex-N0LSI
>

298. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-24 03:47:49 UTC
From: John Kasupski <kc2hmz@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <ml63455v3gh5volf68e2e2r25eum32ggm9@4ax.com>
Source record: 1908

On Sat, 13 Jun 2009 08:42:58 EDT, N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

>Field Day starts two weeks from today.
>
>Anybody (besides me) going to participate?
>
>How about stories of past Field Days, while we're at it?
>
>73 de Jim, N2EY

I'll be joining the Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawandas (ARATS), callsign W2SEX, in WNY, probably as a 3F but the number may go up. We will operate from the City of North Tonawanda Emergency Management Department EOC. We will operate phone, CW, and digital on HF with at least three transmitters, as well as on VHF/UHF simplex as conditions permit, and will have stations set up both inside and outside the building.

As for past stories from Field Day...the two most memorable ones for me were the year I served as Field Day chairman (2004) and the one a few years prior to that where we were hit by torrential rainfall on Friday night which left our location (a county park) flooded with 6" to a foot of water for the remainder of the weekend (We had operators running stations with their feet up on wooden pallets to keep them out of the water, the pallets were literally floating).

The best Field Day story for the club over the years, however, has been told to me by some of the old-timers in the club that were around one year back in the 1970's when this club had Field Day turn into a real disaster operation.

It seems that a tornado hit a town in an adjacent county just as the caravan of ARATS operators and equipment was on its way to the Field Day site (which back then was in a farmer's field well outside of town). Upon hearing of the disaster, they changed plans and headed for New York State's southern tier where the tornado had occurred. They drove for an hour and a half, eventually arriving in force at what passed for this rural town's command post.

All electrical power, telephone service, and radio communications in the town were out. They had ZERO communications - until the cavalry rode in over the hill, towing several trailers loaded with ham gear, generators, tents, food, fuel, batteries, and various other supplies and equipment that had been intended for a completely self-supporting, well-planned, weekend-long Field Day operation involving more than a hundred ham operators.

I've been told that it took them about six seconds to go, "Well, yes, we certainly could use your help." Needless to say, the folks in that town got a demonstration of the value of ham radio during emergencies that I don't imagine they'll ever forget, and were highly appreciative of what they saw. Nevertheless, I hope nobody has this happen to them this weekend. Good luck to everyone at Field Day this year!

73 DE John, KC2HMZ
President, ARATS

299. HR 2160 - restrictive covenants webinar Thursday

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-24 12:36:08 UTC
From: ARRL MW Division <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090624122405.22AC2301B8@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1909
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.antenna,rec.radio.info

Midwest Division members,

Hams have been happy to have the tools available in PRB-1 to combat restrictive municipal government ordinances against antennas and towers. We have wished for these protections to be extended to private covenants, which PRB-1 did not speak to. In many urban areas it's virtually impossible to find a home not subject to private restrictive covenants.

Now HR 2160 has been introduced into the US House of Representatives. In a two-step process this bill might well give us PRB-1 type ammunition to use when trying to erect amateur antennas in covenant communities.

Thanks to the division members who have already written their congressional representative in support of this bill. For more background check out
http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar has sent the following invitation. If you have interest in facilitating protection from restrictive covenants this webinar will be of interest. Please consider attending. And have a rewarding Field Day. -:- k0bj -:-

The Atlantic Division is sponsoring a webinar about HR 2160 for our members on Thursday, June 25th at 8:00pm EDT. We have space for 1,000 people to listen and view this presentation.

Dave Sumner was gracious enough to offer his help in doing this presentation.

You are welcome to invite your division members to join in with us. There is no cost for attendees to listen/view this presentation. You are also invited to register as well to attend.

Participants must register in order to listen/view the presentation and all they need to do to register is to click on the URL:
https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/596535705

- Bill N3LLR

ARRL Midwest Division
Director: Bruce Frahm, K0BJ
k0bj@arrl.org
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300. Oregon law bans cell phone use while driving - hams exempt

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-25 00:33:46 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <7afuuuF1pu0qhU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1910

Oregon House Bill 2377 was passed by the state senate
and will be signed into law by the Governor.

Section 3(i) of the law exempts licensed amateur radio operators.

Details online...

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/06/oregon_legislature_outlaws_dri.html
http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/HB2377/

301. Re: Oregon law bans cell phone use while driving - hams exempt

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-25 03:35:50 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7ag9kcF1vcl78U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1911

Richard Crowley wrote:
> Oregon House Bill 2377 was passed by the state senate
> and will be signed into law by the Governor.
>
> Section 3(i) of the law exempts licensed amateur radio operators.
>
> Details online...
>
> http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2009/06/oregon_legislature_outlaws_dri.html
> http://gov.oregonlive.com/bill/HB2377/

It appears that the exemption for hams was an amendment introduced in
the Senate.
http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measures/hb2300.dir/hb2377.a1sa.html says,

(i) To a person who holds a valid amateur radio operator
license issued or any other license issued by the Federal
Communications Commission and is operating an amateur radio;
(j) To a person who operates a two-way radio device that
transmits radio communication transmitted by a station operating
on an authorized frequency within the citizens' or family radio
service bands in accordance with rules of the Federal
Communications Commission;

I'm curious if anyone knows how this got added to the bill at the last
minute. Do we have a ham who is an Oregon senator?

73, Steve KB9X

302. Re: NiCd battery packs

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-25 04:06:16 UTC
From: Steve Stone <n2ubp@hotmail.com>
Message-ID: <h1ujqi$j66$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1912

> : I was in a similar situation and opted for the Sanyo Eneloop AA
> : batteries. Sanyo says they will hold a charge for one year. (85
> : percent level)
>
> On what type of device..? Surely not a 5W 70cm handheld..?!
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP
>

An old 5 watt Radio Shack 2 meter HT aka HTX-202.
I also use them in an older 5MP digital camera, Minolta 7Hi

Steve
N2UBP

303. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1663 - June 26 2009 - Refeed

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-26 12:18:51 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090625224147.02f758c0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1913
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1663 - June 26 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1663 with a release date of
Friday, June 26th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. The FCC says no to a petition to regulate the
accuracy of signal reports; some new Cycle 24 spots appear on the sun
and a new Mode B record on the aging AO7 ham radio satellite. Find out
the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1663 coming
your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: THE FCC SAYS ANY SIGNAL REPORT IS A GOOD SIGNAL REPORT

Hams can continue to give any signal reports that they please. This as
the FCC denies a petition filed by a Texas ham that sought to regulate
the way signal reports are given in the Amateur service, especially
during contests. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

--

The FCC has acted very quickly on a petition filed this past May 6, by
Jack Najork, W5FG, of Hubbard, Texas, concerning signal reports
transmitted by amateur stations that are participating in contests.
Specifically, Najork had request that the Commission sanction the
American Radio Relay League for not taking any action to prohibit or
discourage what he termed as "false 5-9 blanket reporting."

In the petition, Najork stated that contest signal reports have become
-- and we quote "wholesale liar's exchanges." He also expressed the
concern that the ARRL has -- and again we quote -- "targeted newly
licensed radio amateurs with articles in QST to insure they learned and
followed this sham reporting system."

But in its almost record-setting dismissal of the Najork petition, the
FCC flatly stated that the way in which hams exchange signal reports is
of no interest or concern to the regulatory agency. In regard to the
message exchanged between stations in contests, the FCC said that these
are specified by the various contest sponsors and generally consists of
a call sign and a signal report. As to hams giving other hams
inaccurate signal reports, here the FCC notes that there is no rule in
Part 97 that requires a station to transmit a report of the signal
received. Nor is there one that specifies the standard for reporting

signal quality.

In the end the Commission said that it does not regulate amateur contests. Rather, they are self-administered by the amateur community. Based on this, the FCC has dismissed Najork petition and has told him that his concerns should be directed to the various contest sponsors.

Just how Najork might accomplish this is a good question. This is because the majority of ham radio contests are sponsored by individuals or groups in other nations. As such, they are not subject to the same rules as those radio amateurs whose licenses have been issued by the United states FCC.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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And before you ask, this is not some sort of belated April Fool's joke. The petition had been assigned as Docket number DA No. 09-1378 by the FCC. You can read the entire dismissal order for yourself at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1378A1.doc (FCC)

**

SOLAR CYCLE 24: NEW SUNSPOT GROUP EMERGES

Some possible good news on the propagation and maybe the D-X front as well. Thomas Giella, NZ4O, reports that on Monday, June 22nd, a new solar cycle 24 sunspot group emerged in the South-West quadrant of the Sun. Also that NOAA was expected to assign it the designation 11023 with a beta magnetic signature.

Tom, who lives in Lakeland, Florida, notes that sun watchers have seen four solar cycle 24 sunspot groups this month and six in the past 30 days. He adds that it appears as if solar cycle 24 has finally come alive.

And in what may be related news, word on the VHF Reflector that the 6 meter band has been open in various parts of the world with skip contacts of several hundred to more than a thousand miles. These reports seem to coincide with the emergence of the new sunspot group being reported by NZ4O, but whether or not there is any direct connection between the two events is unknown. (Various Sources)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-7 MODE B 7000 KM QSO RECORD SET

A 7,000 km contact via the aging AO-7 satellite in Mode B has taken place. This as PS8RF in Brazil and makes contact with ON7EQ in Belgium.

The actual distance between the two stations 7622 kilometers which translates into 4736 miles. According to ON7EQ, both stations knew that a theoretical window between their locations only lasts about 1 minute, 30 seconds. Because of this, some careful preparation was required for selection of the optimal window and calculation of Doppler shifts both ways.

In the vend the effective contact was only possible during about 20 seconds. That was just enough time to exchange reports. It was also enough to put PS8RF and ON7EQ into the ham radio satellite record books. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: UK RAYNET HAM RADIO NOT INCLUDED IN EMERGENCY PLAN

Ham radio was definitely not on the mind of United Kingdom emergency planners. This, when that nations recent emergency preparedness report was recently made public. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham in the U-K, with more:

--

The Government's recent Digital Britain report speaks of the importance of resilient communications networks and the need for regular tests of emergency communications systems.

Mention is made of a planned major test in late 2009 to manage and recover from a major loss of network capability.

The RSGB regrets that Government communications planners seem to have completely overlooked the valuable resource that RAYNET can offer in such emergency situations. Unfortunately RAYNET does not seem to be completely integrated into the nation's emergency communications planning.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, in Nottingham.

--

RAYNET can best described as the U-K equivalent of the United States ARES and RACES combined. (GB2RS)

**

HAM TECHNOLOGY: W1AW, WA6ZTY TO CONDUCT DUAL-TONE FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST IN JULY

The ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW is joining forces with WA6ZTY on the West Coast to conduct a summer Frequency Measuring Test. The event will take place at 0145 UTC on July 2nd. That's 9:45 p.m. Eastern and 6:45 p.m. Pacific time.

According to Frequency Measuring Test Coordinator Ward Silver, N0AX, the format will be a repeat of the dual-tone test conducted in November 2008. Silver says that the timing glitches that occurred during the

November test have been ironed out, so the format will be repeated to give everyone another opportunity to make measurements.

More about the Frequency Measuring Test can be found on line at www.arrl.org/w1aw /fmt. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W3BN repeater serving Reading, Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: VK BROADCASTER TO ASSIST IN EMCOMM ALERTS

A broadcaster down-under says its going to equip itself to assist in rescue radio operations. This by making itself ready to do local updates when and where they are needed during an emergency. Jim Damron, N8TMW, reports: -- New technology will help the Australian Broadcasting Corporation bring local emergency news coverage directly to communities affected by natural disasters like floods and cyclones. Three fly-in transmitters have been purchased by the company to allow local ABC affiliated stations to set up shop anywhere in Australia.

The units were originally designed for the United States military to use in the Iraq war. They are designed to be set up within an hour and can be powered by a small generator or AC mains power.

Mark Spuurway is the head of transmission services with the ABC. He says that these transmitters will insure that affected communities will be kept informed. -- At airtime its not known how soon these new Australian Broadcasting Company fly-in radio service will be available. (ABC release)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC REFUSES TO RENEW TEXAS FM BROADCAST LICENSE

A broadcast station has lost its license In a June 22nd Memorandum Opinion and Order, the FCC has dismissed an Application for Renewal of licensee for station KBKH FM in Shamrock, Texas. This after finding that station owner Terry Keith Hammond lacks the basic requisite character qualifications to be and remain a Commission licensee. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the rest of the story: -- Back on September 15, 2006, the Commission began a hearing proceeding to determine whether Terry Keith Hammond was qualified to be and remain a licensee. Also, whether his license for Station KBKH FM should be revoked, and whether Hammond's application for renewal of the station's license should be granted.

The case centered around a Hearing Designation order to determine if Terry Keith Hammond made false certifications, misrepresentations, or otherwise demonstrated a lack of candor in applications that he filed with the Commission. Also, whether he willfully and/or repeatedly violated Commission rules governing the operation, location and equipment for Station KBKH FM. Lastly, whether Hammond willfully or repeatedly failed to comply with a Commission rule requiring licensees to provide information concerning matters within the Commission's jurisdiction

The Presiding Judge eventually determined that Hammond received a copy of the Hearing Designation Order but failed to file a written notice of appearance seeking to avail himself of the right to a hearing. Because of this the Judge concluded that Hammond had waived his right to a hearing. He then terminated the hearing proceeding and certified to the Commission the issues in the matter. The Judge also dismissed, with prejudice, the station's renewal application.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles. -- The FCC says that its actions were taken pursuant to authority delegated to the Enforcement Bureau under Section 0.111(a)(17) of the Commission's rules. At airtime, its not known if Hammond plans to file an appeal. (FCC)

** HAM HAPPENINGS: PAPERS BEING SOLICITED FOR MUD 2009

Technical papers are currently being solicited for publication in the ARRL's Microwave Update 2009 Conference Proceedings. The conference is slated for on Friday, October 23 through Saturday, October 24 in Dallas, Texas, but you do not need to attend the conference nor present your paper to have it published.

Strong preference will be given to original work and to those papers that are written and formatted specifically for publication rather than as a visual presentation aid. The deadline for papers is Monday, August 31, 2008. More information is available on-line at www.microwaveupdate.org (ARRL and MUD)

**

HAM RADIO AND THE NET: AMSAT NOW TWEETING ON TWITTER

Get ready for some interesting ham radio in space related tweets. This with the announcement that the Amateur Satellite organization AMSAT is now posting on the Twitter social networking website.

According to Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, writing on the AMSAT Bulletin Board, the ham radio space agency new Twitter account is twitter.com/AMSAT. He says that the initial tweets will deal mostly with AO-51 and AO-7, but those with interest in other ham radio satellites are welcome to follow.

Glasbrenner, who is AMSAT North America's Vice President for Operations says that the short postings or tweets will deal with items that are

deemed as small for publication by the AMSAT News Service or to be sent by e-mail, but of interest to the general ham radio space community. (AMSAT-NA)

**

NEW PRODUCT: JETSTREAM INTRODUCES JT220M FOR THE 220 BAND

Its been a long time since a new mobile transceiver for the amateur 222 to 225 MHz band has been announced. Now Jetstream, the company best known for its power supplies and ham station peripherals has introduced the new JT 220 M transceiver.

The JT 220 M is an FM only transceiver that runs 50 Watts out in its high power mode from any of its 99 memory channels or its one programmable call channel. It features a large black on blue LCD display, a backlit DTMF microphone, a time out timer plus both CTCSS and DTS encode and decode built in. There's even an internal tone burst encoder for those rare spots in the world that still use it.

The JT 220 M's newly designed double conversion receiver uses intermediate frequencies of 21.7MHz and 450 kHz to maximize image rejection of unwanted signals. The overall receiver design yields a squelch sensitivity of point one microvolt. In other words, this radio can hear as well as talk. And less we forget, the JT 220 M is computer programmable using an optional cable.

If you have been thinking about getting a radio for 220 but have been looking for something new, the JT 220 M may be the transceiver for you. Judge for yourself on-line at www.jetstream-usa.com/jt220m.shtml (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEW PRODUCTS: NEW CCRADIO 2 COVERS 2 METERS

The recently announced C. Crane CCRadio-2 is not a transceiver but it can receive anything in the 2-meter band Amateur service band. The California based C. Crane Company says it's the first commercial AM/FM radio that provides this type of ham-band monitoring capability, noting that listeners could find emergency information there that could save somebody's life. More about the CCRadio-2 at the C. Crane website. Its at www.ccrane.com (C. Crane)

**

NET NEWS: THE NET COMES FIRST

The results of a survey released on June 18th says that twice as many Americans would rather give up their cell phone or cable TV than their broadband Internet connection. This, even though they're paying more for the high-speed service this year.

The latest findings by the Pew Internet and American Life Project shows broadband adoption jumped to 63 percent of American adults using a high-speed connection at home compared to 57 percent a year ago. The results appear to indicate that the current economic recession has not kept people from subscribing to a home high-speed connection.

Home broadband users paid more for their service this year over last year. The average monthly bill is $39 this year. This is up by over $4 in 2008 when the average monthly fee was $34.50. (Todays Technology)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: C-NET INTERVIEWS KEVIN MITNICK, N6NHG

Some names in the news. First up is former hacker turned Internet security expert Kevin David Mitnick, N6NHG. In an on-line interview with C-Net News Ellinor Mills, Mitnick explains how ham radio lead him to an interest in the nations telephone system and from there to computer hacking and social engineering. This, so he could get all sorts of information that he personally craved to know and to try to understand.

Mitnick also talks openly about other hackers, about his getting caught, his time spent behind bars and how it all lead him to become one of the good guy hackers. Someone working to keep the nations data systems secure from people like his former self.

It all makes an interesting read, especially for those who might have known, or actually knew N6NHG back in the 1980's and 1990's. The article is on-line at http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10269348-83.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-20 (C-Net)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: K6JAT APPOINTED AS PACIFIC DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR

Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, of Oakland, California, tis the new ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director. This, after being appointed by League Joel Harrison, W5ZN to serve the remainder of the current term of Andy Oppel, N6AJO, who resigned from the post citing family and business reasons.

Tiemstra is a member of the Northern California Contest Club, the Quarter Century Wireless Association and 10-10 International. He will serve as Pacific Division Vice Director through the end of 2010. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: SAN FRANCISCO'S FIRST ATV STATION

And the story of the late Clarence Wolfe, Jr., W6JDI, and his foray into amateur fast scan television in the late 1940's is one of the

features in the July issue of Popular Communications magazine.

According to the article by writer Shannon Huniwell, Wolfe signed on with a home built 525 line Iconoscope camera and transmitter about a year and a half before the first San Francisco commercial station began to light up the airwaves. His programming consisted only of a picture of a girl that other pioneering ham television operators dubbed as Gwendolyn.

How W6JDI pulled it all together and got it on the air for less than $500 is an amazing story. It starts on page 73 of the July Popular Communications on newsstands right now. (PopComm)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: JOE PHILLIPS, K8QOE - S.K.

It is with the deepest of sorrow that we report the passing of our longtime friend Joe Phillips, K8QOE, who died suddenly at his home on Saturday, June 20th. Joe, who since 1998 had been serving as ARRL Ohio Section Manager was not only a devoted ham radio operator and family man, but also a driving force in publicizing the hobby to the world.

First licensed in 1959 as KN9SYL, Phillips first joined the ARRL Field Organization as an Official Emergency Station in 1986. He became a Public Information Officer in 1989 and has served as an Official Observer since 1997. He was elected Ohio Section Manager in 1998.

But titles are only a tiny part of the Joe Phillips story. Rather for many of his 68 years on Earth, Joe was a ham literally out in the trenches of amateur radio. A career as a journalist and a teacher, over the years K8QOE edited six separate ham radio newsletters in Cincinnati before becoming Newsletter Editor for the Ohio Area Repeater Council in 1984. That's a position he held for five years.

In 1986, Phillips organized the first Ohio Repeater Directory and in 1992 he created the Ohio Section Ham Radio Newsletter Contest. He also authored a weekly ham radio newspaper column in the Sunday edition of the Cincinnati Enquirer called "Ham Call" and hosted a similarly named program for cable television also in the Cincinnati area. And for many years he was a fixture at forums he conducted or took part in at the Dayton Hamvention.

In 1994, Joe Phillips was elected to the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. A year later he was the recipient of the ARRL's McGan Silver Antenna Award. This latter honor is bestowed annually to an ARRL member who demonstrates outstanding public relations success on behalf amateur radio at the local, state or national level. In Joe case, it was all three.

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, is survived by his wife Donna and their three children. A funeral Mass was scheduled for Saturday, June 27th at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in Fairfield, Ohio with burial in Youngstown, Ohio.

Needless to say, Joe Phillips, K8QOE, was a very special member of the nations ham radio community. A true contributor to its well being in every sense of the word. He will be missed. (K8JE, N8BV, ARRL, ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM TECHNOLOGY: WA1ZMS TRANS-ATLANTIC BEACON GETS MORE POWER

The WA1ZMS Trans-Atlantic spotting beacon on 144.285 MHz has just had an increase in power. This CW beacon is also GPS locked and the antenna is beaming at 60 degrees from IARU grid locator F M 07 f m. While it has yet to be heard in the British Isles, its owner Brian Justin, WA1ZMS says that given the right conditions, the signal may make it across the pond. More about this experiment is on-line at www.directivesystems.com/WA1ZMS (WA1ZMS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: RS-15 10 METER BEACON STILL OPERATIONAL

The 10 meter beacon on the RS-15 Amateur Radio satellite is still going strong. This, over 14 and a half years since the ham radio satellite was launched.

RS-15 was rode into orbit on December 26th 1994. Its 145 to 29 MHz linear transponder has long since ceased operation, however the 10 meter beacon can still be heard. At least when there is enough power generated to bring it on the air.

It should be noted that most commercial low earth orbit satellites cease operating after a few years. The fact that RS-15 can be heard at all is a reflection on the very high standard of design and construction that is put into every amateur satellite. (AMSAT)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CELEBRATING THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

A group of radio amateurs are reportedly planning a commemorative event to mark this year's 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Called 'Echoes of Apollo', the Southgate news says that various activities are planned around the end of June and into July to

commemorate this historic event.

As we go to air the organizers are reportedly negotiating with some of the world's largest and most capable amateur radio moon-bounce stations, and some deep space radio facilities. The idea is to network people from various locations using moon-bounce.

Also planned is an HF radio weekend. This, with stations set up near sites that took part in the original support for the Apollo 11 mission. More on this project as details become available. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: MUSCATINE IOWA RADIO CLUB TURNS 60

On the air, the Iowa-based Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will be operating Special Event Station W0M from June 15 through June 30. This is in celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the club. Operations will be on 80, 40 and 10 meters on H-F and locally on 146.910 F-M. QSL with a #10 Self Addressed Stamped Envelope via KC0AQS 1092 Ripley Rd., Muscatine, Iowa. The zipcode is 52761. Logs may be uploaded to Logbook of the World and eQSL sometime after June 30th, but you can only get the certificate through the postal service. (N0LOH)

**

ON THE AIR: THE ANTARCTIC IN 2010

And a lot further South, ON7ZM and F5PFP say that they are planning an expedition to Antarctica. One that will probably take place during the Arctic summer of 2011 to 2012.

According to F5PFP, it could be a 6 to 7 week expedition to reach some old bases and refuges which are situated below the Antarctic polar circle. Possible stops include the Loubet coast, the Fallieres coast, Marguerite Bay, and hopefully one accessible island in the Alexander group. Questions go to f5pfp (at) aliceadsl (dot) fr or keep an ear open here on Newsline for more details. (OPDX)

**

DX

In DX, listen out for DL5YL, and DL5YM who are currently operating portable HB0 from Liechtenstein. The pair are on from the city of Masescha working in CW on all of the high frequency bands. QSL as directed by the operators. This operation ends on July 2nd.

SQ8X and SV2KBS will activate Easter Island from October 31st through November 15th. A few more operators are being sought for this DXpedition. If you are interested to join please contact stan (dot) sq8x (at) gmail (dot) com

IV3EPO will be active from Malta as 9H3EP through June 29th. Listen for him on 40 through 10 meters mainly using CW. QSL direct or via the

bureau to IV3EPO.

F2JD will be operational from the Philippines for the next five months and is hoping to get his DU1 slash G0SHN license extended. He also plans to activate some Islands On The Air locations during his stay. QSL direct or via the bureau to F6AJA.

Lastly, keep an ear open for Madagascar. This as Texas DX Society member W5KDJ comes on the air as 5R8KD from Antananarivo between July 4-17th. His operation will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW and RTTY. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW and eQSL. And an on-line log search will be available. Paper QSL's go via his home callsign.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: A HOOSIER FIELD DAY IN NEW MEXICO

And finally this week, group of Hoosier hams are trekking to New Mexico for a very special Field Day event. Jack Parker, W8ISH, is in Indianapolis, with more:

--

Their goal is making contact with as many North American human Life Forms as possible during the two day event. Five Indy hams and a sixth from the Rocky Mountains are launching their Field Day from a remote mountain top in New Mexico.

Veteran DX'er Mike Koss W9SU and the newly formed Purveyors of Doom will operate from the 86 hundred foot Gallinas Peak in New Mexico. This is near Corona where a UFO reportedly crashed in 1947.

This part of the world isn't alien to Mike Koss. In fact, he has gone where no man, with a ham radio, has never gone before. In July 1997 Mike was traveling through New Mexico on business and was fascinated by the history of Roswell and the 50 year commemoration of the mysterious UFO crash.

Two years later Mike and his brother Bob W9ETA returned to Roswell to operate Field Day from an alleged UFO crash site west of the city. In 2002, the UFO Field Day adventure took off. Three more Hoosiers, including a retired Indianapolis police officer living in Colorado, joined Mike at the crash site.

Their quest for amateur radio contacts and a possible Close Encounter has kept the tradition alive. In 2004 a forest fire in the area forced the trekkers to find a new location for Field Day. They settled for a mountain top near Corona, New Mexico, an area known for UFO activity.

Following a couple of side trips to two epicenters of UFO lore-Roswell, New Mexico and a Nevada site, near area 51, Mike hatched the idea of combining an interest in UFO's and Amateur radio into a new Field

Day group.

This year, using their new call sign of W9UFO, Mike and the Purveyors of Doom radio club, will be operating 2Alpha, along with a VHF station from the remote grid square of DM74. Any contacts made during Field Day 2009 with these alien Hoosiers, will earn you a novel QSL card that satirizes the governments official denial of UFO's.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

--

For those who'd like to tune them in, the group be on 14.337 MHz an hour before the start of Field Day at 1700 UTC on Saturday, June 27, renewing its tradition of talking to fellow club members in Indianapolis who couldn't make the trip. But anyone else is welcome to give them a signal report as well. (ARNewsline(tm), W8ISH)

** NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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304. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 25 (Friday, June 26, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-26 22:09:20 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090626220850.92C173145B@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1914
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 25
June 26, 2009
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Second Edition of "VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs"
Introduced

Due to storm-related power outages, there will be no ARRL Audio News for Friday, June 26. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> PRESIDENT OBAMA MAKES HIS MARK ON FCC WITH FOUR NOMINEES

Just barely five months into his first term as President of the United States, Barack Obama has put his personal stamp on the Federal Communications Commission: On June 25, the US Senate confirmed Julius Genachowski as FCC Chairman and reconfirmed current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell for his first full term as Commissioner. Earlier the same day, he nominated South Carolina Democrat Mignon Clyburn and Republican Meredith Attwell Baker for the two vacant Commissioner seats. If confirmed by the Senate, Clyburn and Baker would bring the FCC to its

full complement of five Commissioners.

At around 7:25 PM (EDT), Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) read out only the numbers of the nominations corresponding to their numbers on the day's calendar. Genachowski was calendar number 251, McDowell was 252. The process took only seconds and followers would have had to know their calendar number on the day's agenda to know they had been confirmed. Reid said that it was "too bad" that he could not give individual recognition to the nominees beyond simply reading their names, saying they were people who would "change lives." Click <http://www.c-spanarchives.org/library/vidLink.php?b=1245972129&e=1245972729&n=2> to watch a video clip f the confirmation.

According to Senate insiders, there were senators who reportedly had some remaining issues over answers the nominees had provided to written questions submitted after their confirmation hearing; a single senator can put a hold on a nominee and prevent a vote. Reid had been working since last week to get those holds lifted and the President's FCC nominees in place as quickly as possible, said a Reid spokesperson: "As with all of the President's nominees, it is important that we confirm [Genachowski's] nomination as soon as possible so that he has a full team to address the many issues confronting the nation."

President Obama nominated Genachowski to lead the Commission on March 3, 2009 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/03/10684/?nc=1> and renominated McDowell on June 2 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/03/10859/>. Both nominees received bipartisan support from the Senate's Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee before their names were moved to the full Senate for confirmation: Genachowski received a 24-1 vote from the committee, while McDowell received unanimous support. Genachowski is a Democratic nominee, while McDowell is a Republican. Only three Commissioners at a time may be members of the same political party.

Julius Genachowski

Genachowski, 46, is a technology executive and a former classmate of the President's from Harvard Law School. Genachowski will take the seat of Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein. Earlier this year, Adelstein was nominated by President Obama to be the Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1>.

Genachowski has been widely praised by industry executives and consumer-activist groups -- two groups often at odds -- for his wide-ranging experience and intimate knowledge of technology issues. "I can think of no one better than Julius Genachowski to serve as chairman of the Federal Communications Commission," said President Obama. "He will bring to the job diverse and unparalleled experience in communications and technology, with two decades of accomplishment in the private sector and public service. I know him as the son of immigrants who carries a deep appreciation for this country and the American dream;

and as the proud father of three children working with his wife Rachel to be responsible parents in this digital age."

Acting Chairman Copps congratulated Genachowski on his Senate confirmation: "I believe Julius brings just the right blend of talent, experience and dedication to lead the FCC toward the more active role it must play if all our citizens are to enjoy the blessings and bounties of 21st century communications. I look forward to welcoming both Julius and his family into our FCC family. And I look forward to working with Julius and all my colleagues at the Commission in tenacious pursuit of a communications policy that truly puts the public interest first."

After graduating from law school, Genachowski clerked for federal judge Abner Mikva; he also clerked for Supreme Court Justice David Souter. Genachowski later served as chief counsel to Reed Hundt, chairman of the FCC from 1993-1997. After leaving the FCC, Genachowski was a senior executive at IAC/InterActiveCorp, Barry Diller's e-commerce and media company. He went on to found an investment and advisory firm for digital media companies and co-founded the country's first commercial "green" bank. According to President Obama's campaign Web site, Genachowski raised at least $500,000 for Obama during the presidential election campaign.

Early in the Obama presidential campaign, Genachowski urged then-candidate Obama to capitalize on the organizing power of the Internet. The New York Times called Genachowski "a prolific fund-raiser and chairman of the campaign's group of technology-policy advisers, who produced a report advocating an open Internet, diversity in media ownership and a nationwide wireless system for emergency personnel." The Washington Post, which described Genachowski a "local venture capitalist," credited him with "spearheading Obama's online campaign strategy, which used social networking and other tools to spread Obama's campaign message and raise record campaign contributions."

Genachowski explained in his Obama campaign blog that he "was fortunate to chair the group that advised Senator Obama and the [Presidential] campaign on the tech & innovation plan, a large and hardworking group that generated terrific ideas, rooted in the great work that the Senator and his strong Senate staff have been doing in this area for quite some time."

The new FCC Chairman holds a BA in History from Columbia and a JD from Harvard. While in law school, he served as notes editor of "Harvard Law Review." Genachowski is married to lawyer and filmmaker Rachel Goslins. The couple has two children and Genachowski has a son from his first marriage.

Robert McDowell

McDowell, a Republican, was first nominated by President George W. Bush and sworn into office in June 2006, filling the unexpired term of Republican Kathleen Q. Abernathy.

According to the White House, McDowell has collaborated with his fellow Commissioners to develop and establish American communications policy covering the wireless, media and Internet industries, as well as international policy matters. He has worked to create rules governing wireless auctions, establish a framework for unlicensed use of TV "white spaces" spectrum, develop incentives to encourage the development of new broadband technologies, review public interest benefits as part of the approval process of proposed corporate mergers and adjudicate enforcement proceedings.

McDowell brings to the FCC 16 years of private sector experience in the communications industry. Immediately prior to joining the Commission, McDowell was a senior executive for a trade association representing competitive facilities-based telecommunications service providers. He has served on the North American Numbering Council (NANC) and on the Board of Directors of North American Numbering Plan Billing and Collection (NBANC).

McDowell was graduated cum laude from Duke University in 1985. After serving as chief legislative aide to a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, he attended the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. Upon his graduation from law school, McDowell joined the Washington, DC office of Arter & Hadden, a national law firm, now closed, that was based in Cleveland. McDowell is admitted to practice law before the courts of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the US District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and the US Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia, First, Fourth and Fifth Circuits, as well as the US Supreme Court. He lives in Fairfax County, Virginia on his family's farm with his wife Jennifer and their three children.

Mignon Clyburn

Clyburn, the daughter of House Majority Whip Representative James Clyburn (D-SC), has served on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina since 1998 <http://www.psc.sc.gov/>. The Public Service Commission regulates South Carolina's investor owned public utilities, including providers of telecommunications services. Before her election to that body, she spent 14 years as the publisher and general manager of "The Coastal Times," a weekly newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1998, Clyburn was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly as a Commissioner to represent the Sixth Congressional District; she has been re-elected three times, chairing the Commission from 2002-2004. She is a past chair of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and is presently the chair of the Washington Action Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Clyburn also serves on NARUC's Audit Committee and Utilities Market Access Partnership Board.

Clyburn graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Science degree in Banking, Finance & Economics in 1984.

Meredith Attwell Baker

Baker, the daughter-in-law of former Secretary of State James Baker, formerly served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and the Acting Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/> from 2007 to January 2009. Named as Deputy Assistant Secretary in February 2007, Baker first joined NTIA as a Senior Advisor in January 2004, and also served as Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of International Affairs and on detail to the White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy. Baker was replaced by Larry Strickling, who received the Senate's nod to head the NTIA on Thursday, June 25.

"We have serious concerns <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ItSeemsToUs0408.pdf> regarding the nomination of Meredith Attwell Baker as an FCC Commissioner," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "While Ms. Baker was Acting Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the NTIA released a deeply flawed report <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/01/101/?nc=1> entitled 'Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007' <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/reports/2008/NetworkedNationBroadbandinAmerica2007.pdf>. The report seriously and inexcusably overstated the extent of deployment of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) as a means of delivering broadband services to consumers. Documented FCC figures showed there to be about 5000 BPL customers nationwide, yet the NTIA dismissed this number out of hand and went on a fishing expedition for higher figures that it could quote in the range of 200,000 to 400,000 -- utterly specious numbers without a shred of factual foundation."

Sumner continued: "The ARRL proved that these figures were taken out of thin air <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/02/06/100/> and twice called upon Acting Administrator Baker to issue a correction. Not only has the NTIA failed to do so to this day, our well documented complaints were not even acknowledged. If her FCC nomination is to go forward, we believe that Ms. Baker first must acknowledge and correct this egregious error that occurred while she was in charge at NTIA."

Baker spearheaded the coupon program for digital-to-analog converter boxes to help facilitate the transition to digital television. She has served on delegations representing the United States at major international telecommunications conferences and engaged in bilateral discussions with senior level officials from countries around the world.

Before joining NTIA, Baker was Vice President at the firm of Williams Mullen Strategies where she focused on telecommunications, intellectual property and international trade issues. From 2000-2002, she held the position as Senior Counsel to Covad Communications. Before that, she was Director of Congressional Affairs at the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) from 1998-2000. In the 1990s, Baker worked at the US Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit in Houston and later at the law firm of DeLange and Hudspeth. From 1990-1992, she worked in the Legislative Affairs Office of the US Department of State in Washington,

DC.

Baker earned a BA from Washington & Lee University in 1990 and a law degree from the University of Houston in 1994. A member of the Texas State Bar, she resides in McLean, Virginia with her family.

The President of the Senate will send notice of Genachowski's and McDowell's confirmations to the White House. It is up to the White House to decide on a date for their swearing-in. At press time, no word has been received as to when Baker and Clyburn will face their confirmation hearings.

==> ARRL SEEKS COURT ACTION TO COMPEL FCC TO COMPLY WITH RULING

On June 24, 2009, the ARRL filed a petition with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit asking the Court to order the Federal Communications Commission to comply with the Court's 2008 decision that remanded the FCC's ruling on Access BPL for further action <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/ >.

In its Petition for a Writ of Mandamus, the ARRL asks that the Court "order the Commission to comply with the terms of the Court's mandate by (1) soliciting comment on the unredacted studies placed in the rulemaking record, and (2) providing a reasoned explanation of its choice of an extrapolation factor for Access BPL (or issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking proposing a different extrapolation factor), within sixty days" <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/BPLCourtMandamusPetition06242009.pdf >.

"What's at issue is the fact that after over a year the FCC has not complied with the Court's order," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The FCC needs to ask the public to comment on the scientific studies conducted by the FCC and on which they relied in their BPL decision. It also must either offer a reasoned explanation, based on the scientific studies already in the FCC's record, for its determination of the rate at which radiation from medium voltage power lines carrying BPL decays with distance from the power line, or issue a new Notice of Proposed Rule Making and seek comment on an appropriate standard."

The Court of Appeals issued its decision April 25, 2008 and its mandate on June 13, 2008. ARRL's petition asserts: "By March 31, 2009, the Commission had taken no action with respect to the disclosure of the unredacted scientific studies and had not therefore solicited public comment on the unredacted studies. Petitioner, therefore, filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Commission seeking the unredacted versions of the studies that the Court ordered be included in the rulemaking record, and about which an opportunity for comment was to be provided by the Agency."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that "We have been waiting patiently for the FCC to fulfill its obligations under the Court of Appeals decision, but after more than a year, it's clearly past time

for the Commission to act. Thanks to the release of the unredacted staff studies in response to the ARRL's most recent FOIA request -- a request that should not have been necessary for us to make -- we finally know what the FCC withheld from public view back in 2004 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/08/10811/?nc=1 > and what they now must deal with in order to resolve the regulatory uncertainty that continues to hang over BPL. We are hopeful that under its new leadership, the FCC will get back on track and will revise its rules governing BPL interference to be consistent with the technical record and sound science."

On May 1 of this year, the Commission released the unredacted studies without comment or notice. As the ARRL's petition continues, "To date, no public notice of that action has been given and no further action has been taken by the Commission with respect to the provision of an opportunity for the public to comment on the unredacted studies."

Henderson explained that "the release of the unredacted studies is only a partial fulfillment of the Circuit Court's decision. The ARRL's position is that further delay is not warranted by any reasonable, factual standard. There is precedent in law that 'a reasonable time for agency action is typically counted in weeks or months, not years.' It is 14 months since the Court's decision, and still the FCC has no timeline to meet its mandated obligations."

The ARRL is asking that the Court order the Commission to comply with the Court's order within 60 days. The petition states: "Given the simplicity of the Commission's compliance with the two components of the Court's Mandate on remand and the amount of time that the Commission has already taken following the issuance of the Mandate, the Court need not be concerned with the question of how much more time is needed for the Commission to complete its tasks. Sixty days is more than enough to solicit public comment on the unredacted studies and to justify, if it can, the extrapolation factor, or to reopen the rulemaking proceeding in order to determine a different, appropriate extrapolation factor."

==> GOVERNORS SHOW SUPPORT FOR AMATEUR RADIO AS ARRL FIELD DAY APPROACHES

Governors across the United States have shown their support for Amateur Radio, with many proclaiming Amateur Radio Week in their states. Coinciding with ARRL Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>, these proclamations show citizens that these states value the contributions made by radio amateurs.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said that ARRL Public Information Officers around the country were encouraged to begin work on obtaining proclamations many weeks ago: "Hundreds of local proclamations by city and county leaders -- as well as 25 state proclamations -- have been made, with more expected. Proclamations from the governors of Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska,

New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming as well as Delaware's State Senate, are not just recognitions of the past, but keys for future political actions such as PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/prb-1_program.html> and legislative issues."

These state proclamations range from Ohio declaring June 27 as Amateur Radio Day, to Florida, Delaware, Illinois, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania pronouncing June as Amateur Radio Month in those states, while other states have designated Amateur Radio Week in their states.

ARRL Field Day is many things to many people -- a competition to a picnic to an emergency drill and more. But according to Pitts, it is also a public relations event and groups can score more than 500 points for working the public relations angle before the weekend even begins.

"Your fellow hams and club members probably already know about Field Day," Pitts said, "but what about your local newspapers and radio and television stations? Local media outlets are always looking for fun and interesting things going on in their community." Having a media hit or link is good for 100 points.

Instead of manning only the radios, how about manning a public information table with brochures, signs and a smile? That's another 100 points. "The ARRL offers publicity materials <http://www.arrl.org/brochures/> at no charge except a small shipping fee," Pitts explained. "It's too late to receive ARRL brochures and handouts if you have not already requested them, but go ahead and order them -- you or your club will never know when the opportunity to tell the world about Amateur Radio will pop up next."

If an elected official visits your Field Day site, you can earn 100 points. "This is easier than many folks might expect. All you have to do is ask!" Pitts said.

If your state is one of the 23 states without a PRB-1 statute on the books, Pitts suggests inviting your elected officials to your Field Day site to see what Amateur Radio is all about. "Chances are, these folks will see the importance of what we do, giving you an inroad into discussing how they can help you get antennas in your community or even across the state. It's amazing to think that a simple invitation could lead to so much, but it's happened before -- why not make your Field Day the next success story."

Visit the ARRL Web site to view the proclamations <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/24/10905/?nc=1>. For a list of the many ways you or your club can earn bonus points this Field Day, please be sure to check out the ARRL Field Day packet <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2009-packet.pdf>.

==> TENNESSEE TEEN HAM RESPONDS TO EMERGENCY, PERFORMS CPR

It was just another day, helping out at another event. It was the third year in a row that 16 year old Cody Anderson, KI4FUV, of Harriman, Tennessee, had volunteered to help out the Roane County Amateur Radio Club (RARC) with the Run for the Child event. But it was the first time that he would help save a life.

May 30 dawned with fog in the sky. Not too hot, but the temperature would reach the mid-80s before the Sun went down. All in all, a good day for a race. Anderson made his way to the race site at the Roane State Community College, set up his equipment at Checkpoint #2 and waited for the runners to pass by. "This year started off just like the past two years," he told his local newspaper, the Roane County News. Twenty minutes later, that all changed.

Twenty minutes later as the runners started their second pass around the marked course, Anderson saw one of the runners fall down. Unlike other runners who fall down on a course, this man did not get up. After waiting about 20 seconds, Anderson left Checkpoint #2 and quickly made his way over to the downed racer. As he did so, he used his handheld transceiver to notify his fellow club members who were at the event, "Runner down."

Sheriff's deputies were also placed along the race route. One who was near Anderson and Checkpoint #2 saw what was going on and came to assist. As Anderson raced on foot, the deputy jumped in his patrol car and drove to the fallen runner. Both reached the fallen runner in about 20 seconds.

RARC Vice President Cliff Segar, KD4GT, said that they all heard Anderson racing toward the runner, "but we just assumed someone just simply tripped and fell." But after hearing Anderson say "Roll EMS" over the radio, he knew it was much more serious.

Another runner -- "I never got his name," Anderson said -- passed the area where the teen and the sheriff's deputy were kneeling next to the runner lying on the ground. The man stopped to help, checking out the man on the ground, who was still breathing. Anderson got back on the radio and told Bill Farnham, KI4FZT, at the command center that the first responders who were on site needed to get to where he was -- immediately. "The man who stopped, I just kind of let him take over," Anderson told the ARRL. "He seemed like he had a bit of medical training, and he started taking vital signs. I was talking to Bill on my radio, letting him know what was going on."

Then the fallen runner stopped breathing.

In February, Anderson took a CPR class that another RARC club member -- Phil Newman, KE4LSH -- had organized. It was the skills he learned at that class that came into play on May 30. He started giving the man mouth-to-mouth resuscitation; the other runner started chest compressions. "We did about three sets of CPR before the Roane County Rescue guys got to us, just a second or two later" Anderson told the ARRL.

"I'm just glad I was able to take the CPR training, else I don't know what I would have done or how I would have reacted," Anderson told the County Times. Anderson efforts, along with those of the unknown runner, kept the man alive long enough for EMS to arrive and use an electronic defibrillator to restart his heart. He was eventually transported to the University of Tennessee Medical Center via Lifestar helicopter. "Last I heard," Anderson said, "was that he was doing okay."

Anderson will begin his senior year at Rockwood High School this fall. When he was 11, he sat for his Technician exam and passed; he is now a General. He likes to help out with the Boy Scouts and give back to the community through his SKYWARN and ARES(r) activities: "I volunteer five weeks every summer to help out at Camp Buck Toms, a Boy Scout camp located in Rockwood, Tennessee. Along with a few other volunteers from the local area, I teach the radio and electronics merit badge courses. Through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, I've personally helped out with several severe weather outbreaks, the TVA Kingston ash spill in December 2008 and the Kingston Smokin' the Water 4th of July festival a few times."

He is modest about the events of May 30. "I took my first training class for CPR and AED in February 2009, thinking I would never have to use it," he told the ARRL. "On May 30, 2009 -- I used it. I would highly recommend that everyone takes some type of medical training."

Segar calls Anderson a hero. "You never know when training will possibly be the difference between life and death," he said. -- Some information from the Roane County News

==> W1AW ANNOUNCES 2009 FIELD DAY BULLETIN SCHEDULE

Stations active during ARRL Field Day -- June 27-28 -- are eligible to receive 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH on the West Coast) according to the schedule below. You must include an accurate copy of the message in your Field Day submission. The Field Day bulletin must be copied via Amateur Radio; it will not be included in Internet bulletins sent out from Headquarters and will not be posted to Internet BBS sites.

W1AW will operate on the regularly published frequencies. The special PSK31 bulletin will be transmitted on the regular W1AW teleprinter frequencies. CW frequencies: 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675 and 147.555 MHz. Teleprinter frequencies (includes PSK31): 3597.5, 7.095, 14.095, 18.1025, 21.095, 28.095 and 147.555 MHz. Phone frequencies: 1.855, 3.990, 7.290, 14.290, 18.160, 21.390, 28.590 and 147.555 MHz.

Friday
CW: 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT, 8 PM EDT
Teleprinter: 6 PM PDT, 7 PM MDT, 8 PM CDT, 9 PM EDT
Phone: 6:45 PM PDT, 7:45 PM MDT, 8:45 PM CDT, 9:45 PM EDT
CW: 8 PM PDT, 9 PM MDT, 10 PM CDT, 11 PM EDT

Saturday
CW: 7 AM PDT, 8 AM MDT, 9 AM CDT, 10 AM EDT
Phone: 8 AM PDT, 9 AM MDT, 10 AM CDT, 11 AM EDT
CW: 5 PM PDT, 6 PM MDT, 7 PM CDT, 8 PM EDT
Teleprinter: 6 PM PDT, 7 PM MDT, 8 PM CDT, 9 PM EDT
Phone: 6:45 PM PDT, 7:45 PM MDT, 8:45 PM CDT, 9:45 PM EDT

Sunday
CW: 7 AM PDT, 8 AM MDT, 9 AM CDT, 10 AM EDT
Phone: 8 AM PDT, 9 AM MDT, 10 AM CDT, 11 AM EDT
PSK31: 9 AM PDT, 10 AM MDT, 11 AM CDT, 12 PM EDT

The Maritime Radio Historical Society's K6KPH
<http://www.radiomarine.org/> will transmit the 2008 W1AW Field Day message for the benefit of West Coast stations on 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975 and 21.0675 MHz, CW only. The frequencies for K6KPH Teleprinter (RTTY and FEC AMTOR) will be 7.095 and 14.095 MHz. The K6KPH schedule is accurate as of June 17, 2009.

Saturday
CW: 7:30 AM PDT, 8:30 AM MDT, 9:30 AM CDT, 10:30 AM EDT
CW: 5:30 PM PDT, 6:30 PM MDT, 7:30 PM CDT, 8:30 PM EDT
Teleprinter: 6:30 PM PDT, 7:30 PM MDT, 8:30 PM CDT, 9:30 PM EDT

Sunday
CW: 7:30 AM PDT, 8:30 AM MDT, 9:30 AM CDT, 10:30 AM EDT
Teleprinter: 9:30 AM PDT, 10:30 AM MDT, 11:30 AM CDT, 12:30 PM EDT

More information on ARRL Field Day is available on the ARRL Field Day Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>.

==> OHIO SECTION MANAGER JOE PHILLIPS, K8QOE (SK)

Joe Phillips, K8QOE, who served as ARRL Ohio Section Manager since 1998, passed away suddenly at his home on June 20. He was 68. Licensed in 1959 as KN9SYL, Phillips first joined the ARRL Field Organization as an Official Emergency Station (OES) in 1986. He became a Public Information Officer in 1989 and has served as an Official Observer (OO) since 1997. He was elected Ohio Section Manager in 1998.

A graduate of Youngstown University, Phillips had a career as a journalist and a teacher. He edited six separate ham radio newsletters in Cincinnati before becoming Newsletter Editor for the Ohio Area Repeater Council in 1984, a position he held for five years. In 1986, Phillips organized the first Ohio Repeater Directory and in 1992, organized the Ohio Section Ham Radio Newsletter Contest. He authored a weekly ham radio newspaper column in the Sunday edition of the Cincinnati Enquirer called "Ham Call" and hosted a similarly named program for cable television in the Cincinnati area.

In 1994, Phillips was elected to the Greater Cincinnati Amateur Radio Hall of Fame, and in 1995, he was the recipient of the ARRL's McGan Silver Antenna Award. This award is given annually to a League member who demonstrates outstanding public relations success on behalf Amateur

Radio at the local, state or national level. Phillips was excited about having his photo on the cover of the May 2009 issue of QST featuring the annual Dayton Hamvention.

"Throughout a 40-year friendship, Joe and I worked closely together on many occasions," said ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE. "From his early days of supporting the county ARES/RACES unit and the Ohio Repeater Council, Joe has always provided energetic and effective leadership with a friendly, personal touch. The magnetism of his style of leadership drew the best from others who soon became solid friends, not mere associates."

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, remembered Phillips fondly: "If you have been to Dayton you have met and laughed with Joe. He was the master of the Wouff Hong ceremony. His red jacket is the stuff of legend in Ohio. Joe was more than a Section Manager -- he really gave all of himself to ARRL for 20-plus years. With him dies the last paper newsletter sent to section membership. When I answered his phone calls, he announced his call with 'Here's your Ohio Nightmare.' He loved baseball, maybe more than I did. He was a good man, and he is really going to be missed."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Child of delight, with sunbright hair" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Two new sunspots appeared last week, numbered 1022 and 1023, and both were Solar Cycle 24 spots, with 1022 lasting through June 23 and 1023 until June 24. On June 24, geomagnetic indices were unsettled. Sunspot numbers for June 18-24 were 0, 0, 0, 12, 24, 12 and 14 with a mean of 8.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 68, 67, 67, 67, 68, 68 and 67 with a mean of 67.4. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 6, 7, 3, 4 and 19 with a mean of 6.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 1, 5, 6, 2, 5 and 16 with a mean of 5.3. This weekend is ARRL Field Day, and conditions should be stable; Planetary A index is predicted to be around five, which is quiet.. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Emily Bronte <http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Child_of_delight,_with_sun-bright_hair>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, ARRL Field Day is on June 27-28 -- look for a Field Day site near you <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php>. The NCCC Sprint and the Digital Pentathlon are on June 26. On June 27-28, check out the His Majesty King of Spain Contest (SSB), the Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest, the Marconi Memorial HF Contest and the ARCI Milliwatt Field

Day. The SARL Digital Contest is June 28 and the RAC Canada Day Contest is July 1. Next week is the Digital Pentathlon on July 3. Check out the Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, the WLOTA Contest, the DL-DX RTTY Contest, the Original QRP Contest, the PODXS 070 Club 40 Meter Firecracker Sprint (local time) Michigan QRP July 4th CW Sprint on July 4-5. The ARS Spartan Sprint is July 7. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, June 28, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, July 10, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL Field Day in the National Spotlight: Each year, the ARRL's Media and Public Relations Department makes materials available to Public Affairs Officers (PIOs) for use in promoting Field Day events. Most of these are in forms that local groups can easily modify to include their own information, but there is also a national press release that is sent out direct from ARRL HQ over the news wire <http://www.arrl.org/pio/press_releases/2009/0622.html>. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, said many hams have seen the press release -- either portions of it or in its entirety -- with the headline Field Day -- Over 35,000 radio 'hams' active June 27-28. "This press release has already been printed in hundreds of newspapers and on Web sites, with more to come over Field Day weekend," Pitts explained. "Wire news services, like other merchants, also run 'special deals.' This year, we were also able to have our Field Day logo and caption displayed in the news cycle on the PR Newswire-Reuters news billboards in Times Square in New York City and in Las Vegas June 15-17. For more information on ARRL Field Day -- June 27-28 -- please visit the

ARRL Field Day Web site <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 3. There will be no ARRL Audio News, W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. The ARRL Letter will be posted a day early on Thursday, July 2. League Headquarters will reopen Monday, July 6 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and festive holiday weekend.

* "ARRL Introduces Second Edition of "VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs": Through a technique called Internet linking, ham radio operators are harnessing the immediacy and portability of radio communication to the global reach of the Internet. Today's radio amateurs are using the Internet as the relay between their radio base stations, handhelds and mobile transceivers for long-distance communication, spanning thousands of miles. The ARRL has released a second edition of "VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs", the complete guide to several of the most widely used Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) systems used by today's radio amateurs, with particular attention to EchoLink and the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). The book is designed for beginners as well as those hams who are long-time VoIP users. If you're new to VoIP, you'll discover information on how to get started, set up and use these systems. The more advanced ham will find plenty of technical "meat" to dig deeper into VoIP applications and discover how they actually work. Written by EchoLink creator Jonathan Taylor, K1RFD, "VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs" is available for $21.95 from the ARRL Web site. Order your copy today <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1431>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org

==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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305. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 25 (Friday, June 26, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-27 01:24:51 UTC
From: Jim Hampton <aa2qa@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <lxe1m.36$Ei4.29@newsfe13.iad>
Source record: 1915
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

It is good to read about a teenager performing CPR. Dang the politics.
Just great to hear about people who act in a manner that makes you proud to
be of our genus and species.

73 from Rochester, NY
Jim AA2QA

"ARRL Letter Mailing List" <letter-dlvy@arrl.org> wrote in message
news:20090626220850.92C173145B@www.arrl.org...
> ***************
> The ARRL Letter
> Vol. 28, No. 25
> June 26, 2009
> ***************
>
> IN THIS EDITION:
>
> * President Obama Makes His Mark on FCC with Four Nominees
> * ARRL Seeks Court Action to Compel FCC to Comply with Ruling
> * Governors Show Support for Amateur Radio as ARRL Field Day Approaches
>
> * Tennessee Teen Ham Responds to Emergency, Performs CPR
> * W1AW Announces 2009 Field Day Bulletin Schedule
> * Ohio Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE (SK)
> * Solar Update
> * IN BRIEF:
> This Week on the Radio
> ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
> ARRL Field Day in National Spotlight
> ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July
> Second Edition of "VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs"
> Introduced
>
> Due to storm-related power outages, there will be no ARRL Audio News for
> Friday, June 26. We apologize for any inconvenience.
>

306. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-27 17:36:06 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h25leescm1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1916

Bands sound good, 25 minutes before kickoff.

--

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

307. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-28 02:41:44 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <obid45l1qqkjjq9n4qkrhavgpd031mufuk@4ax.com>
Source record: 1917

On Sun, 21 Jun 2009 22:56:55 EDT, Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
wrote:

>>> Anybody (besides me) going to participate?
>
>AFAIK many clubs, certainly the larger ones, in Alberta will be
>participating in Field Day.
>
>Our group has managed to get our local MP, Member of Parliament, to
>come out. That would be the equivalent of the US Congress person.
>Do we get extra points for a federally elected official? <smile>

Our MP came out and spent some low tension, low pressure time with
us.. Turns out he personally knew four of the five amateurs who were
present including me.

(Low pressure, low tension meant that we were hassling him or asking
for money but just doing a demo so he could learn about amateur
radio.)

I have to leave due to personal reasons but another amateur showed up
after doing some tower work. So 5 amateurs are running 3 stations in
a former football field and having a great time. 3A Alberta

We got one of the local newspapers out and four visitors besides the
MP. I'm disappointed that no town councillors or officials showed up.
I'll have to do better follow up next year.

And next year we'll invite the Premier of Alberta. Give him about 10
months notice. <smile> As a county councillor some ten years ago he
did attend some amateur radio meetings.

Tony

308. Good media coverage of Field Day

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-28 19:10:51 UTC
From: patty1@sonic.net
Message-ID: <4a47b4b0$0$1640$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 1918

There was a segment about FD on the one local TV newscast I watched last night, and I just spotted this on the Google News home page:

Amateur radio field day
KTVO - 37 minutes ago - all 214 articles »

Clicking on "all 214 articles" displayed stories from Iowa, Kansas, Florida, and several other states, with links to many more.

Pretty cool!

Patty N6BIS

309. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-29 01:50:48 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <uvhf45lcfb0dsiit05g1lhulh9rbmu91im@4ax.com>
Source record: 1919

On Sat, 27 Jun 2009 22:41:44 EDT, Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
wrote:

>(Low pressure, low tension meant that we were hassling him or asking
>for money but just doing a demo so he could learn about amateur
>radio.)

Arrrghhhh. ... we were *not* hassling him .... <sigh>

Tony

310. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-29 01:52:03 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <498b9772-c2b2-48c4-8af7-dc1ebd59e845@h11g2000yqb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1920

On Jun 27, 1:36 pm, K HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
> Bands sound good, 25 minutes before kickoff.
>
It was good to work you again, Hans.

I was part of a multiclub group that ran 5A (plus VHF) under the call N3NZ. Over 1300 QSOs. We had 1 HF CW station, 3 HF phone stations, 1 digital/phone station, and a VHF station. The QSO mix was about 42% CW, 6% digital, 52% phone. All rigs low power or QRP, wire antennas, networked logging computers, set up in a small public park (with permission, of course). Bonuses for natural power, independence from mains, W1AW bulletin, public place, publicity, visit by official, online report submission, SM message. Great wx, great food, great people, great fun.

364 days till the next one!

73 de Jim, N2EY

311. Re: Field Day 2009 Plans?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-29 02:01:52 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h2975j$v92$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1921

POST ACTION REPORT

K0CKB and I ran a low key operation in class 1E from the RV.

Band conditions were better than expectations, with the higher bands 10, 15, and 20 open well past sunset. This was surprising, given our northerly latitude (my GPS put us at 47deg, 56.393N, 92deg 39.924W).

Made just over 500Q's in under 7 hours B-I-C time.
--

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

312. Re: Good media coverage of Field Day

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-06-30 18:37:35 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <cgmk455ljesdvuh8bgh64a1rtrjrskkqmv@4ax.com>
Source record: 1922

On Sun, 28 Jun 2009 15:10:51 EDT, patty1@sonic.net (Patty Winter)
wrote:

Short wave radio link for communication emergency
http://www.vermilionstandard.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1634652

Tony

313. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 26 (Thursday, July 2, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-02 20:52:12 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090702202814.4371731315@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1923
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 26
July 2, 2009
***************

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* It's Official: Julius Genachowski Sworn In As FCC Chairman
* 2008 ARRL Annual Report Now Available
* IARU HF World Championships: Coming to a Radio Near You
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Germany
John Miller, K6MM, Wins June QST Cover Plaque Award

There is no ARRL Audio News for July 3. The ARRL Audio News will return
July 10.

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> IT'S OFFICIAL: JULIUS GENACHOWSKI SWORN IN AS FCC CHAIRMAN

On Monday, June 29, US Supreme Court Justice David Souter -- in one his
last official duties on the high court -- swore in Julius Genachowski as
the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. Genachowski,
who clerked for Souter after finishing law school, will complete the
four years remaining in the term of outgoing FCC Commissioner Jonathan
Adelstein. On June 25, the US Senate confirmed both Genachowski and
current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell -- Genachowski for his initial
term and McDowell for his first full term
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<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/25/10913/?nc=1>.

Adelstein has been nominated by President Obama to be the Administrator for the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/23/10716/?nc=1>; a nomination hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee is scheduled for July 7.

Genachowski praised Adelstein's record, thanking him for his more than six years of "outstanding public service" as an FCC Commissioner. "Throughout his tenure at the Commission," Genachowski said, "he has tirelessly championed the public interest. The FCC and the public have benefited greatly from his rich understanding of media and technology policy, and his devotion to the democratic process. While I regret that I won't have the pleasure of serving with Jonathan at the FCC, I look forward to forging a strong partnership with him in his future work."

Commissioner Michael Copps, who had served as Acting Chairman since the resignation of then-Chairman Kevin Martin this past January <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/15/10566/>, welcomed Genachowski to the Commission, saying Genachowski begins "what promises to be a public-spirited and distinguished tenure as Chairman. He knows the FCC well, brings impressive private sector and technology experience with him, and enjoys deserved renown for innovative thinking and new approaches. I look forward to working with him on the many issues awaiting his attention."

Copps also expressed his thanks for Adelstein's tenure on the Commission: "Jonathan and I have worked closely together on so many issues that it makes it hard for me to imagine a Commission without him. Our thoughts most often run in the same direction, whether the issue is media, broadband, rural America, the disabilities communities, reaching out to non-traditional stakeholders or upholding a shared vision of the public interest. His intelligence, good judgment, wide experience and invariably good humor combined to make him a highly productive Commissioner across a wide gamut of issues. I will miss him here but wish him all good things as he moves ahead in the confirmation process toward becoming Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service at the US Department of Agriculture. I look forward to our continuing work together and to our friendship through the years."

Commissioner McDowell is expected to be sworn in for his new term on July 2.

==> 2008 ARRL ANNUAL REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

The ARRL Annual Report for 2008, now available online and in print <http://www.arrl.org/announce/annualreport/>, reviews the major events of the year and documents the renewed growth of both the ARRL and the activities of the Amateur Radio Service. In 2008, the ARRL experienced a growth in membership, ending the year with 154,627 members, an increase of 0.7 percent from 2007. The growth was the greatest among International members and in the League's Northwestern, Rocky Mountain

and Delta Divisions.

"As ARRL began 2008, the main question facing us was whether the growth spurt that the Amateur Radio Service had enjoyed the previous year would continue," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It did, with the number of new amateur licenses issued by the FCC rising to 28,066 -- a 5 percent increase over 2007. The ten-year license term makes the total number of licensees a poor indicator of current trends, but after a period of annual declines beginning in 2003 this figure also increased by 1.2 percent during the year. Thus it appears that the regulatory changes that took effect in February 2007 are having more than a short-term impact."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, said that through the ARRL's history, the League's strength has come from "the fact that its leaders have always had a clear understanding of our association's mission. Our mission has been expressed in different words by different generations but has remained fundamentally the same. Our current strategic plan states it in just six words: To advance and advocate Amateur Radio."

Harrison further defined this strength, recalling that in 2005, "we identified four 'pillars' of our association: Public Service, Advocacy, Education, and Membership. Technology supports virtually everything we do, and as time went on we realized that it deserved its own pillar. So, with a bit of fanfare we unveiled technology as the 'fifth pillar' at the ARRL EXPO area of the 2008 Dayton Hamvention."

Sumner said that 2008's "most gratifying development" was the April decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in the ARRL's appeal of the FCC's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules. "The Court panel found that FCC prejudice had tainted the rulemaking process and that the Commission had violated the Administrative Procedure Act by not disclosing in full the staff studies on which the Commission relied," he said. "The judges also found that the Commission had failed to justify its decision to apply to BPL systems an extrapolation factor that was designed for entirely different technologies and had summarily dismissed empirical data -- submitted at the Commission's invitation -- that supported a different conclusion. The Court even awarded the ARRL some of our costs; this reimbursed only a small fraction of the total cost of the appeal, but it was a moral victory and underscored the fact that we had substantially prevailed in our appeal. Remarkably, at yearend the FCC still had done nothing to comply with the Court's decision. Perhaps the change in administration will cause the FCC finally to meet its obligations."

According to ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, "The Annual Report is not only useful for showing members the strength of the organization, but it is also a valuable tool in presentations to major public officials. At times they may know little about Amateur Radio, but when they see the quality of the annual report, even before they open it up, they know this is an organization to be taken very seriously. We are indeed a national association and very active."

==> IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: COMING TO A RADIO NEAR YOU

Radiosport fans are gearing up for the summer's biggest competition: The IARU HF World Championships <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/iaru.html>. Calling the 24 hour long contest "an HF operator's delight," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, explained that the contest will allow amateurs plenty of opportunity to work DX from all around the globe on CW and SSB, as well as make QSOs with many IARU Member-Society club stations and officials.
"The IARU HF Championship is one of Radiosport's distinctive events," said Kutzko. "It's the only major contest that uses International Telecommunication Union (ITU) zones as part of the exchange, and it's the only contest that gives special multiplier status for IARU Member-Society stations and their officials."

Kutzko said amateurs can get in on the fun in a variety of ways: "You may choose to enter as a single operator using SSB only, CW only or a mixture of both modes. Single operator stations can choose from three power levels: High Power (greater than 150 W), Low Power (between 5-150 W) or QRP (5 W or less). You can also get some friends together at one station and participate as a Multioperator station with a single transceiver."

One of the fun things to do is see how many of the IARU special stations you can work during the event. "While most stations give their ITU zone <http://www.iaru.org/ituzonesc.gif> as part of the contest exchange, IARU Member-Society stations give the abbreviation for their IARU Member-Society's name: W1AW -- as W1AW/KL7 -- will be giving 'ARRL' as part of their exchange," Kutzko said. In addition, IARU officials can give one of four unique exchanges: AC if they are on the IARU Administrative Council, or R1, R2 or R3 for the ITU Region that official serves. For example, since Tim Ellam, VE6SH, is IARU President, he would give "AC" as part of his exchange.

According to Kutzko, numerous IARU Member-Society stations will be on the air this year, including Germany's Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DA0HQ), France's REF-Union (TM0HQ), the Kuwait Amateur Radio Society (9K9HQ), the Nigerian Amateur Radio Society (5N0OCH and others), the Japan Amateur Radio League (8N1HQ, 8N2HQ, 8N3HQ, 8N4HQ and 8N8HQ), the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (HS0AC), the Namibian Amateur Radio League (V51NAM), the Radio Amateurs of Lebanon (OD5RAL), as well as dozens of other Member-Society stations from around the world. "It is always special to see so many nations represented on the air by their national organization," Kutzko said. "It reinforces the global nature of Amateur Radio and the common bonds that all amateurs have."

The IARU HF World Championship begins at 1200 UTC Saturday, July 11 and goes until 1200 UTC Sunday, July 12. Complete rules may be found on the ARRL Contest Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/iaru.html>. Logs may be submitted via e-mail <iaruhf@iaru.org>; paper logs should be mailed to IARU International Secretariat, Box 310905, Newington, CT 06111-0905

USA. All logs must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than 1200 UTC August 11, 2009.

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of June.

ARRL's legislative relations consultant Chwat & Co has received 786 letters to 278 different Members of Congress (267 House, 11 Senate) supporting HR 2160 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>. The bill -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- gained two new Congressional co-sponsors in June <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8989>.

The ARRL filed a petition with the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit asking the Court to order the Federal Communications Commission to comply with the Court's 2008 decision that remanded the FCC's ruling on Access BPL for further action <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/26/10915/?nc=1>.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, appointed Southern Florida Assistant Section Manager Jeff Beals, WA4AW, as Vice Director in the Southeastern Division, effective June 1 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/04/10865/?nc=1>. He also appointed Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, as Pacific Division Vice Director <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/16/10889/?nc=1>.

ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, was on the United States Delegation to the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL) PCC.II meeting in Ottawa, Canada June 1-5. ARRL Technical Relations Manger Brennan Price, N4QX, attended Study Group 5 meetings in Geneva, where ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, chaired his final meetings of Working Group 5A-1 that handles amateur and amateur-satellite issues.

ARRL Field Day was in the spotlight in both New York City's Times Square and Las Vegas <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/23/10904/?nc=1>. More than 1600 Field Day sites registered their locations this year with the ARRL Field Day Locator. W1AW was on the air with the help of League staffers <http://www.arrl.org/blog/2009%20Field%20Day>.

ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, and ARRL Teachers Institute Instructor Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, led the second and third 2009 sessions of the ARRL Teachers Institutes on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/18/10894/?nc=1>.

ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, forwarded reports to the FCC regarding a well-known 75 meter frequency and IARU Region 3 forwarded a number of monthly Intruder Watch monitoring reports

to Skolaut.

The ARRL Contest Branch announced that the ARRL Sweepstakes log submission deadline will be reduced from 30 days to 15 days, allowing for results from both the CW and Phone portions of the contest to be posted to the ARRL Web site within 60 days of the deadline <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/10/10873/>.

ARRL Laboratory Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, investigated a power line noise case in Northglenn, Colorado where he was able to locate two noise sources associated with the interference.

Section Manager Election ballots and candidate statements for the South Texas and Los Angeles elections were mailed to members of those sections ahead of schedule. ARRL members have until August 14 to return filled-in ballots.

ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, attended Ham Radio 2009 -- Europe's largest Amateur Radio convention -- in Friedrichshafen, Germany, where he provided DXCC card-checking services to ARRL's international members <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/en/>.

Along with a group of volunteers, ARRL Sales and Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, promoted Amateur Radio to the 70,000 people who attended Maker Faire, the world's largest do-it-yourself (DIY) festival in San Mateo, California <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/26/10835/?nc=1>. Inderbitzen also represented ARRL in Germany at Ham Radio 2009.

The July issue of QST and the July/August issues of NCJ <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/18/10893/?nc=1> and QEX <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/09/10871/?nc=1> were mailed.

The ARRL released the second edition of VoIP: Internet Linking for Radio Amateurs. <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1431>.

Three new products -- a hat, a reflective jacket and a maroon polo shirt -- have been added to the ARES(r) apparel line and are available from Barker Specialty <http://www.barkerstores.com/arrl>.

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, announced that the HZ1EA operation in Saudi Arabia has been approved for DXCC credit <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=8983>.

==> FRESH AIR, FRIENDS, FOOD AND FUN ABOUND FOR 2009 ARRL FIELD DAY

It's an event that some groups take very seriously, planning all year long for. Still, others just use the date to get together, make a few contacts and enjoy each other's company. No matter how you view it, ARRL Field Day <http://www.arrl.org/fieldday> is fun!
According to ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, the Field Day Site Locator <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> was a big hit this year. "We had 1602 groups listed -- 98 more sites

than were listed in 2008," he said. "We had all 50 states, Puerto Rico and nine Canadian provinces registered on the Locator this year."

Henderson said he was aware of at least one Field Day contact with the International Space Station <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/25/10910/?nc=1>, as well as several site visits by Members of Congress and local officials to various Field Day sites around the country.

ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, agreed that it was a great Field Day. "Despite some propagation issues in the atmosphere," he said, "the PR propagation in the media has been more than I have seen before in prior Field Days." Pitts said that the emphasis on Field Day promotions began long before June -- the ARRL released media kits, fill-in-the-blank proclamations, news releases and tip sheets. Along with the introduction of the PR-101 course <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/15/10817/?nc=1>, Field Day was also the presentation theme at the 2009 ARRL National Convention at the Dayton Hamvention.

"The preparation appears to have paid off well," Pitts said. "Hundreds of hits have been relayed in by Google's news monitoring, plus more from PR Newswire and spotting by ARRL Public Information Officers around the country. Both of the video Field Day PSAs <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/28/10728/?nc=1> have seen good play on TV and cable. Field Day even got some play in New York City's Times Square" <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/23/10904/?nc=1>.

Pitts said that many city and county officials -- as well as 28 states -- issued Field Day proclamations praising Amateur Radio: "Proclamations from the governors of Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming, as well as Delaware's State Senate, are not just recognitions of the past, but keys for future political actions such as PRB-1 and legislative issues." These state proclamations range from Ohio declaring June 27 as Amateur Radio Day, to Florida, Delaware, Illinois, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania pronouncing June as Amateur Radio Month in those states, while other states have designated Amateur Radio Week in their states <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/24/10905/?nc=1>.

Individuals and groups who participated in Field Day are invited to submit their pictures and stories to the Field Day Online Soapbox <http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con_id=176>. "Just a few days after Field Day, we've had almost 70 entries on the Soapbox," Henderson said. "It really is a thrill to read these stories and see all the pictures showing what a good time people had this year."

Henderson encouraged Field Day participants to submit their entries via the Field Day Web Submission Applet

<http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/fielddayentry.php>. "You can also submit your entries via e-mail <fieldday@arrl.org> or by postal mail," he said. If submitting via postal mail, entries should be sent to Field Day Entries, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Entries must be postmarked, e-mailed or submitted by July 28, 2009. Late entries cannot be accepted.

It's not too early to begin preparing for next year's Field Day -- go ahead and mark your calendars now for June 26-27, 2010.

==>WHAT'S NEW AT DAYTON 2009 -- THE UNABRIDGED VERSION

The July 2009 issue of QST had a one page overview of some of the major pieces of equipment introduced at the Dayton Hamvention. There is no way a single person can track down everything on display that's new in the time available, but QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, did find quite a bit more -- much more than can be squeezed into the available QST page.

"We reported on many other categories of interest, including new VHF and antenna-related equipment, as well as many categories of accessories," he said. "When you click on the link, you'll find a description of the rest of the new items I tracked down during a very busy three days at Dayton."

Check it out on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/files/qst-binaries/QS0709NewatDayton.pdf>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "A summer's Sun is worth the having" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: It was a perfect Field Day weekend from where I stood. The weather was warm, skies clear, the space weather was calm and there was enough propagation to make a domestic contest interesting. I had no plans, so on Saturday I went to the ARRL Field Day Station Locator to find a Field Day site. The one I landed at -- W7AUX -- listed a contact number, a cell phone at the site. I inquired if they needed a CW op, was told, "We could use any operators," so I drove up to the site north of Seattle. I had a lot of fun on 20 meter CW. Sporadic-E even helped out, and the 6 meter station made a number of contacts with other Field Day stations in the Western US. You can get a taste of what happened at Field Day stations around the country via the Contest Soapbox <http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con_id=176>. A shorter version with a photo is on page one of the 2009 Field Day Soapbox. Just search for KB6NU. Sunspot numbers for June 25-1 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68, 66.8, 67, 67, 68.5, 68.2 and 67.5 with a mean of 67.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 7, 3, 3, 11, 10, 5 and 4 with a mean of 6.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 2, 4, 8, 7, 5 and 3 with a mean of 5. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's

Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by an ancient French proverb <http://www.egreenway.com/months/summer.htm>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the Digital Pentathlon is July 3. Check out the Venezuelan Independence Day Contest, the WLOTA Contest, the DL-DX RTTY Contest, the Original QRP Contest, the PODXS 070 Club 40 Meter Firecracker Sprint (local time) Michigan QRP July 4th CW Sprint on July 4-5. The ARS Spartan Sprint is July 7. Next week is the IARU HF World Championships on July 11-12. The NCCC Sprint Ladder is July 10. The FISTS Summer Sprint and the Feld Hell Sprint are July 11. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint are both July 12. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is July 16. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, July 26, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, August 7, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Fourth of July: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Friday, July 3. There will be no ARRL Audio News, W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. The ARRL Letter will be posted a day early on Thursday, July 2. League Headquarters will reopen Monday, July 6 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and festive holiday weekend.

* Michigan Ham Dies in Tower Accident: A tower accident during Field Day preparations around 11 AM EDT on Saturday, June 27 claimed the life of Larry Prelog, KE4PM, of Niles, Michigan. Prelog, a member of the Blossomland Amateur Radio Association (BARA) <http://www.blossomlandara.org/>, was airlifted from Watervliet to a Kalamazoo hospital where he passed away early Sunday morning. He was 57. BARA Public Information Officer Matt Severin, N8MS, told the ARRL that Prelog "...was very passionate about Amateur Radio and was very involved in club activities. He was the driving force behind the first high altitude balloon launch for our club. Larry was the kind of guy who would give you the shirt off his back even if he didn't have another one for himself. He will be dearly missed."

* Larry E. Price, W4RA, Honored at Ham Radio 2009 Convention in Germany: Larry E. Price, W4RA, was honored at an evening reception following the first full day of Ham Radio 2009 convention activities in Friedrichshafen, Germany <http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/de/> on Friday, June 26. The reception was hosted by the convention sponsor, the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC), and was attended by officials and guests from dozens of IARU Member-Societies. In a presentation made by IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR -- who had served as President of the Norwegian Radio Relay League (NRRL) from 2000-2002 -- Price was honored with the highest NRRL award, the Knight of the Order of the Golden Key. The award was given for Price's many years of service to the IARU, the ARRL and Amateur Radio in general. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, then conferred the title of IARU President Emeritus upon Price. Price served as ARRL President from 1984-1992 and as IARU President from 1999-May 2009. For more on the convention, see the Friedrichshafen blog on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/blog/Friedrichshafen%202009>.

* John Miller, K6MM, Wins June QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for July is John Miller, K6MM, for his article "A No Excuses 160 Meter Vertical Antenna." Congratulations, John! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the July issue by Friday, July 31.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast"

compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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314. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1664 - July 3 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-03 06:48:36 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090702234412.02eae918@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1924
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1664 - July 3 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1664 with a release date of Friday, July 3rd, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC starts its long scheduled rules review and ham radios Part 97 is included. Also, hams in Poland go on flood watch alert, Europe may put emission standards on ham radio a very cold DXpedition on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1664 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

REGULATORY: FCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON REVISING OR ELIMINATING CERTAIN RULES

The Part 97 Amateur Service rules are among those to be reviewed by the FCC or their relevance, modification and continuation for the next several years. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with the rest of the story:

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Pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act in section 610 of the United States Code, the FCC is publishing a plan for the review of rules adopted by the agency in calendar year 1998. Rules which have, or might have, a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

The actual purpose of the review is to determine whether such rules should be continued without change, or should be amended or rescinded. This, to minimize any significant economic impact of such rules on the previously mentioned substantial number of small entities.

In addition to Amateur Radio in Part 97 of the FCC regulations, other services to have their rules reviewed are the Part 20 Mobile Service, the Part 22 Cellular Telephone Service, Part 73 Broadcast Services, the Part 95 Citizens Radio Services to mention only a few.

The FCC rules review notice is designated as CB Docket No. 09-102. It was issued on June 24th and carries a 60 day commentary period.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles. -- You can download and read the entire document detailing this regulatory review at the U-R-L found at: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1307A1.doc)

(FCC, CGC)

**

RADIO POLITICS: NEW FCC CHAIRMAN SWORN IN

The FCC has a new Chairman. On Monday, June 29th, US Supreme Court Justice David Souter swore in Julius Genachowski as the new Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

President Obama had nominated Julius Genachowski to lead the Commission on March 3rd. The Senate confirmed him as the new Chairman of the FCC on June 25th. At the same time it also reconfirmed current FCC Commissioner Robert McDowell for his first full term.

President Obama has also nominated South Carolina Democrat Mignon Clyburn and Republican Meredith Attwell Baker for the last two vacant Commissioner seats. If confirmed by the Senate, Clyburn and Baker would bring the FCC to its full complement of five Commissioners. (ARRL and various published news reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: POLISH HAMS ON FLOOD ALERT

Ham radio is on emergency stand-by in Poland. This, following flooding that has hit the South-Western part of that European nation.

Greg Mossop, G0DUB, is the IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator. He relays word that following the recent flooding and a continuing flood threat to the region, the DASR Polish emergency group is saying that 3.760 MHz may be used for emergency communication.

If this activation takes place, Polish radio amateurs will be requesting that hams in other parts of the world to keep this frequency clear if you hear any ongoing emergency traffic. G0RUB adds that further updates will be posted as they are received. (Southgate)

**

TECHNOLOGY: EUROPE MAY REQUIRE HAM GEAR TO MEET EMMISSION STANDARDS

Future amateur radio gear may sold in Europe need to meet very specific emissions standards. The Radio Society of Great Britain reports that the European Telecommunications Standards Institute is moving towards requiring commercially produced, ready to use amateur radio equipment to conform to international standards for emissions. As of now, the proposals will not affect kits or homebrew equipment. If such rules were enacted it would likely lead to a price increase in commercially made gear sold in that market. (GB2RS News, others)

**

ON THE AIR: HAMS COMMEMORATE THE APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

Ham radio operators around the world spent the weekend of June 27th and 28th bouncing radio conversations off the surface of the Moon. This to help commemorate Apollo 11 Moon landing 40 years ago.

Organized in Australia and the United States, the on-the-air event brought together hundreds of amateur radio operators from around the world, some armed with their own radio dishes. It was timed to coincide with the 40th anniversary next month of the Apollo 11 landing that took place on July 20, 1969.

The earlier date was chosen for two reasons. First is that the Moon does not orbit directly around the Earth's equator, this was the nearest weekend organizers could arrange for practical reasons. Secondly, the date chosen happened to coincide with the 2009 ARRL Field Day operating event. This meant that there would be lots of hams on the air on every mode including Moonbounce.

At airtime its not known how many Apollo anniversary contacts were made, but those hams trying had to be patient. It takes about 2.5 seconds for a radio signal to reach the Moon and bounce back to another part of the Earth. As such any two way contact meant waiting about 5 seconds to get a reply. (N6ZXJ, WB9QZB from published reports)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MIT ANNOUNCES NEW COGNITIVE RADIO CHIP

Engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology have built a fast, ultra-broadband, low-power radio integrated circuit chip. One modeled on the human inner ear that that could have applications in cognitive radios.

Researchers say that the new RF cochlea is embedded on a silicon chip measuring 1.5 mm by 3 mm and works as an analog spectrum analyzer by detecting the composition of any electromagnetic waves within its perception range. They say that the new chip could enable wireless devices capable of receiving cell phone, Internet, radio, television and other signals using a single device.

For those not aware, the term cognitive radio is a paradigm for wireless communication in which either a network or a wireless node that changes its transmission or reception parameters to communicate efficiently avoiding interference with other spectrum users. More about the new radio chip is on-line at www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/06/090603131441.htm (Science Daily, others)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KA9LOY repeater serving Schaumberg Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: CHINESE MADE HT'S MAY BE ILLEGAL TO IMPORT TO THE USA

Some deals are too good to be true or legal. That's the story with some rather inexpensive HT's being sold on-line. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in our newsroom with more:

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Inexpensive VHF and UHF transceivers made in China that transmit and receive on the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands appear to be illegal for hams to buy from overseas dealers and have shipped into the United States. This is because the radios have not passed the FCC certification procedure nor can they as they are designed to transmit on frequencies outside of the United States amateur radio allocations right out of the box.

The radios in question bear names like Puxing, FDC, Wouxon, and numerous others. They are being mainly sold on Bay and similar on-line auction sites world-wide at prices ranging from $30 to $80 plus shipping. Most of the ads originate from dealers in Taiwan or Hong Kong though some have come from other Pacific Rim nations as well.

According to postings on various chat websites, the radios themselves are not all that bad quality. Not great, but not to shabby. Almost all of them feature a back-lit LCD display, up to 100 memory channels, programmable repeater offsets, and even a built-in CTCSS tone encoder.

Output power on the VHF units approaches 5 watts while the UHF models average around 2 watts out. Hams using them report that the transmit audio quality ranges from a bit muffled to good depending on the model and manufacturer of the set.

With retail prices far below that of similar radios from Alinco, Icom, Kenwood and Yaesu, hams on this side of the Pacific might find these Chinese built transceivers hard to resist. But as pointed out in on-line postings, the biggest problem aside from it being illegal to import is where to get one fixed if its dropped or stops operating? Also, replacement battery packs might be very hard to find if the one that comes with the radio goes flat and cannot be revived.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

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With all of this taken into account the radios may not be that great of a bargain, after all. Or in the words of the old sage: Caveat Emptor. Buyer beware. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: PA SKI RESORT FINED $5000 FOR UNLICENSED RADIO OPERATIONS

A ski resort in Pennsylvania has been ordered to auntie up $5000 by the FCC. This after the regulatory agency found that the Bear Creek Mountain Resort has been using a variety of 460 MHz land-mobile frequencies without a license.

The story goes back to 2008 when the FCC's Philadelphia Field Office received a complaint that the Bear Creek Mountain Resort in Macungie was operating radio communications equipment on several frequencies without a license. An agent was dispatched who observed and recorded several transmissions on 461.3500 MHz, 462.5000 MHz, 464.4250 MHz, and 467.7625 MHz.. On 462.500 MHz, the agent heard an individual request assistance bringing a girl with a broken wrist down the mountain.

On June 10th of 2008 the FCC issued the resort a $10,000 Notice of Apparent Liability for its unlicensed radio operation. The resort countered that the fine should be cancelled because it did not knowingly violate the Commission's Rules. But the FCC countered that it found the violations to be deliberate and that the resort must be penalized. However, it would take mitigating circumstances into account and reduce the fine to $5000.

The order affirming the $5000 fine was issued on June 24th. The Bear Creek Mountain Resort was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: LIST OF POTENTIALLY STOLEN EQUIPMENT IN THE BONDY CASE PUBLISHED ON LINE

A follow-up to our report in the case of Kevin Bondy, who now faces a $24,000 fine for jamming the radio system in a Southern California shopping mall. A police search of his residence has turned up what's being described as an extraordinary amount of potentially stolen radio gear.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Department has prepared a list of what was found on the premises and is asking the public's help in identifying any rightful owners. The equipment can be viewed on-line. Items 120 to 123 involve FM broadcast equipment. The rest is land-mobile gear including repeaters with a few miscellaneous items such as computers, CB and amateur radio gear mixed in.

There are two URL's you need to know. The first takes you to the list of equipment. The second shows pictures of the FM broadcast equipment and gives contact information for the Ventura County Sheriff. The URL's with this information are:

Equipment list: http://earthsignals.com/add_CGC/Oaks_Mall_09-5771.pdf
Photographs of the FM broadcast equipment:
http://earthsignals.com/add_CGC/Letters/Stolen%20Equipment.htm
Background information on Kevin Bondy:
http://www.fcc.gov/eb/FieldNotices/2003/DOC-290813A1.html) (CGC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC REFUSES TO ACT ON ELT MODIFICATION CASE

The FCC has turned away a strange complaint regarding an Emergency Beacon Locator device purchased from an unnamed vendor in the United Kingdom by a resident of France. Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, has the details:

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In a letter dated October 24, 2008, Jean Pierre de Lutz of La Garde Freinet. France submitted a complaint regarding ACR Electronics, Inc. which is located in Great Britain. In his letter, Lutz stated that ACR duplicated the hexadecimal code for his 406 MHz Emergency Position Indicating Radiobeacon and that this duplication caused him and his crew to be placed in life-threatening storm conditions at sea unnecessarily.

According to Lutz complaint, he purchased the device in 2002 and immediately registered it with the United States National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. In 2007 he activated the beacon when his vessel encountered storm conditions during an Atlantic crossing. But in the intervening years another beacon manufactured with the same code was also sold and when it was registered with NOAA it overwrote the entry for Lutz unit. As a result Lutz claims that the duplication of the code between his emergency beacon and that of another vessel resulted in a potentially disastrous delay in the dispatch of Coast Guard personnel to rescue him and his crew.

But the FCC disagrees. In its findings, the agency says that ACR is not at fault. It says that the two ACR beacons in question had unique hexadecimal codes until Lutz beacon was altered by the vendor. The FCC added that while it is concerned that this situation occurred, it finds no basis to conclude that ACR violated any rules.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, near New Orleans..

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The FCC did advise Lutz that any complaint regarding the vendor's alteration of the hexadecimal code should be referred to United Kingdom authorities. In addition, comments regarding emergency beacon registration procedures in the United States should be addressed to NOAA. It says that NOAA has changed the registration procedures to ensure that similar duplications do not go undetected, and that the correct user registration information is retained. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC TO INVESTIGATE CELLPHONE EXCLUSIVITY DEALS

Federal telecommunications regulators are going to investigate whether exclusive cell phone deals, such as the one that locks the Apple iPhone to AT&T, are good for consumers. Michael Copps, the then acting

chairman of the Federal Communications Commission announced on June 16th he had instructed the agency's staff to open a review of exclusivity arrangements. (FCC)

**

NEW BOOKS: THE NIFTY E-Z GUIDE TO D-STASR OPERATION

>From the bookshelf comes word of a new work especially for users of D-Star. Titled the Nifty E-Z Guide to D-Star Operation, it was authored by Bernie Lafreniere, N6FN, the book covers every aspect of D-Star operation from the most basic to the more advanced aspects of this emerging digital voice mode.

In his tome N6FN utilizes easy to understand explanations and lots of illustrations to explain such things as radio programming procedures needed to route calls, the operation using local and remote repeaters and reflectors and much more.

The Nifty E-Z Guide to S-Star operation is 104 pages long and is being published by Nifty Ham Accessories. Suggested list price is about $14 from wherever books of this nature are sold. (WB9QZB)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W0YK APPOINTED AS NCDXF ADVISOR

Some names in the news. First up is Ed Muns, W0YK, who has been appointed as an Advisor to the Northern California DX Foundation Board of Directors.

Muns comes to the position with experience as a part of the 1994 YK0A team. He has also operated as 6Y0A and 6Y4A as well as holding the 7J1ACJ call sign. His primary duty will be working with the foundations website along with Doug Bender, WW6D. (NCDXF)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: SOUTH AFRICA'S HONOREES

South Africa's Garth Milne Technology Award has been jointly presented to Andrew Roos, ZS6AA, and Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BPZ. This, in recognition of their design and development of the Amateur Payload on SumbandilaSat. This is a ham radio which is due to be launched on 21 August on a Soyuz Rocket from Baikonur.

Also, that nations NSN Amateur Radio Community Service Award was presented to Francois Botha, ZS6BUU. He was honored for his dedication as National HAMNET Director, to the development of amateur radio as a support communication service during emergencies and disasters.

Lastly, the annual South African construction competition sponsored by Multisource was won by Carson McAfee. He is a second year university student who built the Quadra Helix Antenna. (SARL)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: THE TIDELANDS HAMFEST JULY 11th IN TEXAS

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the Tidelands Amateur Radio Society Hamfest will be held on July 11th at the Doyle Convention Center, in Texas City. The event will feature major radio and associated equipment vendors, hourly and unscheduled prizes, a hidden transmitter hunt and much more. More information on this fun event is on-line at www.tidelands.org. (Press Release)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE

And the 14th IARU Region 3 Conference takes place Christchurch, New Zealand. This, from October 12th to the 16th. Lots of events are planned. More is on line at www.christchurch.org.nz (NZART)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

WORLDBEAT: VK FOUNDATION CALLSIGN CONFUSION

There seems to be confusion in ham radio circles worldwide concerning the Australian 4-letter suffix callsigns. Calls such as VK4FABC or VK7FXYZ and such.

These 4-letter suffixes are issued by Australia to its entry level Foundation-class amateurs. All Foundation class suffixes begin with the letter 'F' followed by 3 more letters.

These are legitimate calls issued by the Australian government. If you contact someone with one, be aware that he or she is a relatively new ham and be sure to welcome them to the hobby. (OPDX)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: SOLAR POWERED AIRPLANE UNVEILED

Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard has unveiled a prototype of the solar-powered airplane. One that he hopes eventually to fly around the world.

The aircraft has a wing span of 61 meters and weighs in at only 1,500kg. It will have four small battery powered engines driving propellers. A large solar array atop the high wing structure will be

used as a solar collector to power the aircraft in daylight as well as to charge the batteries for nighttime flights.

Before any voyage is undertaken the craft will undergo trials to prove it can fly through the night. The final version of the plane will attempt its to cross the Atlantic on a test flight in 2012.

Dr. Piccard, who made history in 1999 by circling the globe non-stop in a balloon, says he wants to demonstrate the potential of renewable energies. (Southgate)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: 4 GHZ LED DEVELOPED

Researchers have constructed a light-emitting transistor that has set a new record with a signal-processing modulation speed of 4.3 Gigahertz. In a pair of papers published in the June 15th issue of Applied Physics Letters, researchers at the University of Illinois and Quantum Electro Opto Systems in Malaysia, report the development and successful testing of the new high-speed light-emitting transistor and new "tilted-charge" light-emitting diode.

The modulation speed of either a light-emitting diode or a light-emitting transistor is limited by the rate at which electrons and holes recombine. This recombination lifetime is important in determining device overall speed. These new devices break the previous record of 1.7 Gigahertz held by a light-emitting diode some time ago. (Science OnLine)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: HIUBBLE RADIOS BACK NEW PLANETS

Earth seems to have its first photos of planets outside our solar system. This, in images captured by two teams of astro researchers using the Hubble Space telescope which radioed the images back to Earth.

Astronomer Bruce Macintosh is with the Lawrence Livermore National Lab. He says that the photos show four likely planets that appear as specks of white that are all but invisible to all but the most eagle-eyed experts.

The tiny planets are trillions of miles away. Three of them are orbiting the same star, and the fourth circling a different star. None of the four giant gaseous planets are remotely but they do raise the possibility of others more hospitable planets do exist. (Space)

**

INTRUDER WATCH: NORTH KOREA EMBASSY ON 20 METERS

Another intruder into the ham bands. The IARU Region 1 monitoring service reports that the North Korean embassy in Tripoli is again using

14.328430MHz. This, for traffic with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Pyongyang. Monitors report hearing an ARQ burst system at 600 Baud and 600Hz shift, operating on two different frequencies at about 16:30UTC daily. One frequency is in the amateur radio band, the other one out of it. (Southgate)

**

INTRUDER WATCH: CODAR RADAR IN THE 24 MHz BAND

Slightly better news with word that the Codar HF Radar from Naples on the 24MHz band has disappeared. This, after a complaint from IK8OZZ.

Unfortunately, a few days later another Codar system was found on 24.850 to 24.950kHz. Bearings taken by the German PTT indicated the source was on Pag Island, Croatia. The German department of Post and Telecommunications has reportedly filed an official complaint to their Croatian counterpart. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF FLIGHT IN THE NETHERLANDS

A reminder that members of a Netherlands based experimental radio group will be active as PH100EL through July 12th. This, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of aviation in Holland by pioneer Count Charles de Lambert. A special 100 Years of Aviation award with mode endorsements will be available. QSL via PD0PVQ. (Via e-mail)

**

THE CONTEST CORNER: ARRL UHF CONTEST CERTIFICATES ON THEIR WAY

Turning to contest news. Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the Contest Branch Manager for the ARRL says that certificates for the 2008 ARRL August UHF Contest and the 10 GHz and Up Cumulative Contest have been processed. Shipment began late last week. Kutzko says that winners should start to see them arrive in their mailbox any day. (ARRL)

**

DX

In DX, the long awaited 2009 Glorioso operation as FT5GA still seems to be on track. Its currently scheduled to begin on July 9th and be on the air through the 28th. More information on this one as soon as we hear that they are on the air.

word that I3LDP, will be active from Mauritius between through July 11th. His activity will be on the HF bands and 6 meters using CW and SSB. His equipment will be an IC-7000, a vertical for 40 through 10meters and a vertical dipole for 6. QSL via his home callsign.

DL7JAN and DL2IX will be active portable CT8 from Faial Island in the Azores from August 21st to the 31st. Their operation will be on 80

through 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via their home call, either via the bureau or direct.

F2JD will be in the Philippines for the next five months and hopes to get his DU1G0SHN license extended. He plans to activate some I-O-T-A locations during his stay. QSL direct or via the REF Bureau to F6AJA.

I2MOV will depart for Sardinia on July 20th, and will be active for about two months portable I-S-Zero. His QTH will be Dolianova which is 2 0km north from Cagliari. QSL via his home callsign, either direct or via the bureau.

Lastly, GM0IIO, will be active portable SV5 from the Island of Rhodes through July 8th . Listen for him on 20 meters on CW and SSB running 100 watts into a 20 meter ends fed antenna.. QSL via GM0IIO.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: A VICARIOUS WAY TO DX FROM DOWN UNDER

And finally this week, news of a very interesting low power DXpedition to a very rare spot down-under. Its in Australia and so is Graham Kemp, VK4BB

--

Several Victorian amateurs are preparing portable gear and cross-country ski kit in readiness for their annual back country trip into the Bogong High Plains.

The group will be lead once more by VK3GT, VK3SN and VK3HFI along with several others as they take ultra-light solar powered gear in to the snowy wonderland of the Australian Alps from 6 to 10 August this year.

And VK3SN is going from, well might say the sublime to the ridiculous, you see just prior to hitting the slopes, he'll be heading a DXpedition to the tropical wonderland called Tonga.

Listen out for the portable QRP station in the snow calling on bands from 160 through to 20 meters each afternoon and evening. Have a chat and hear about winter conditions on the roof of Australia.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Graham Kemp, VK4BB, reporting from Brisbane.

--

In previous years this group of hearty DX'ers have operated from tents, snow caves, igloos and remote mountain huts. Nobody knows what they'll get to stay in this year. That said, they say that the southern hemisphere winter snow looks great and you can share in the fun by catching them on the air. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno, Nevada, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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315. Field Day 2009 Results & A Story

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-04 22:26:51 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <7d51b550-d9dd-453c-b535-bde93b5e3a78@b14g2000yqd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1925

Went out with a local mullticlub group that ran 5A + VHF using the call N3NZ. HF rigs were all 100 watt-class transceivers, mostly with G5RVs for antennas (the CW station used an OCF dipole, aka "Carolina Windom".

We put the ropes for the antennas up on Friday afternoon and did the rest of setup Saturday morning. It was pretty easy; N3NZ built the pneumatic spud gun from QST that launched the ropes, really sweet. You have to see the thing in action to appreciate it; I even got to fire it once.

Takedown was even easier, it was less than an hour from the 2 PM shutdown to saying goodbye.

Power was from the genset in a member's RV, no refueling, no RFI and almost no acoustic noise. Weather was very good, not too hot during the day, not too cold at night, no significant rain, no shutdowns due to lightning.

Food was excellent. Two club members did all the cooking; when you have venison chili at dinner, made-to-order blueberry pancakes and omelets for breakfast plus snacks and drinks around the clock it's hard to complain.

N3FJP FD software did the logging job again; we had more computers than radios! (one computer at each station, plus a server, plus the computer with the digital modes)

We made 710 phone, 580 CW and 85 digital QSOs. One HF station was CW only, three HF stations were phone only, one HF station was both phone and digital. The VHF station was on 6 meters.

397 of those CW QSOs were mine, made in less than 10 hours. One of those was K0HB, whose great 20 CW signal was pounding into EPA.

Bonuses for W1AW bulletin, emergency power, public location, publicity (nice article in local paper), online submission, visit by official, natural power.

Total score well over 5000, a new all-time-high for the location and probably the group.

One particularly memorable moment was the natural power bonus, which requires at least 5 QSOs powered by a 'natural' source.

Our usual method is to use the solar-power setup in a member's RV, and have it run a QRP rig at the very beginning of FD for 6 QSOs or so.

Normally I use a bug to send, and the other CW ops use paddles and electronic keyers or keyboards. The QRP rig wasn't hooked into the computers and keyboards because it was just for a few QSOs.

It happened that I had brought along my old J-37 WW2 Army surplus straight key from my Novice days of 1967-1968. This key was the very first piece of true amateur radio gear I ever owned, and had cost me 25 cents back about 1966. For the first 7 years I was a ham it was the only key I had.

Years ago I gave it a "Navy knob" modification with a poker chip, and it was mounted to a piece of steel from the HV compartment of an old TV set. Real Low Rent radio!

Normally the J-37 gets used once a year on Straight Key Night, and then is retired to a place of honor for the rest of the year. Bringing it along on FD was a last-minute impulse, and more than one other ham asked why I brought it since we had so many other keying options.

We were all set up for the natural power operation as FD began, but the QRP rig's sidetone wouldn't work! How could we send without a sidetone?

I knew I could still send decent code with the J-37 even without a sidetone, so just as FD began I hooked it to the QRP rig and started tuning 40 meters. Made the required 5 natural-power QSOs with it, then one more for insurance. With the natural-power bonus earned, we switched to the regular CW rig and went on with FD - with sidetone.

An old friend had come to the rescue just in time.

51 weeks to next FD.

73 de Jim, N2EY

316. Great "newcomer" tale

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-05 19:40:40 UTC
From: K0HB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <C4CFD99AAC8A4866B91F43730B9C0F44@BigGuyII>
Source record: 1926

Goto ----> http://kb6nu.com/field-day-2009-stuart-makes-his-first-contact/

73, de Hans, K0HB
http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb

317. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1665 - July 10 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-10 07:51:17 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090710004324.0167f220@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1927
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1665 - July 10 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1665 with a release date of
Friday, July 10th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. IARU Region 3 cancels its 2009 Amateur Radio
Direction Finding championship games, AMSAT says that SuitSat-2 has
lost its suit but will still fly, transportation problems cause another
delay for the Glorioso Island DXpedition, Germany's Ham Radio show
likely now matches Dayton in attendance and a contest for D-Star users
is announced. Yes, we said a contest for D-Star users and you can find
out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1665 coming
your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIOSPORTS: IARU REGION 3 ARDF GAMES CANCELLED DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS

Political unrest in Thailand has lead to the cancellation of a ham
radio direction finding event. Joe Moell, K0OV, reports:

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Things haven't gone well in IARU Region 3, which encompasses most of
Asia and the Pacific islands. Thailand, also known as the Land of
Smiles, was scheduled to host those regional championships from October
29 through November 3 near Bangkok.

Two of USA's best radio-orienteers were planning to attend. But now
there's no smiling among the organizers, who reluctantly decided to
cancel the event due to increasing political unrest there. In the
streets, the Yellow Shirts, supporters of the present government, are
taking on the Red Shirts, who are loyal to the former Prime Minister.

The Radio Amateur Society of Thailand was concerned about safety of
competitors and spectators, so the championships were cancelled. There
is no time to schedule the Region 3 championships in another country.
However, IARU Region 1, which includes Europe and Africa, is still
planning to hold its ARDF championships from September 16 through 21 on
the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria. That will be immediately after the
Eighth World High Speed Telegraphy Championship at the same location.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Joe Moell K0OV.

--

This announcement of the cancellation was made on Friday, June 26th by JA1HQG. He is the chairman of the IARU Region 3 ARDF Committee. In his statement JA1HQG said that there was insufficient time to make alternate arrangements to hold the championships in another Region 3 country this year. (K0OV, Southgate)

**

RADIO POLITICS: SECURITY MANDATES OPERATIONS CUTBACK AT 4U1ITU

A famed ham radio station at the literal heart of telecommunications is cutting back its operations due in part to security issues. The DX Newsletter says that International Telecommunications headquarters station 4U1ITU will be on the air a lot less in coming days.

The restricted activities are the result of a decision of the general assembly of the International Amateur Radio Club's decision made in May. Spokesman Gerald Lander, HB9AJU, says that there were several reasons led to this decision. This includes the increased levels of security at the ITU headquarters and a changed recognition of amateur radio in international communication. Lander did not say what this changed recognition or security issues are but he did add that another reason for the cutback in operation was 4U1ITU is no longer among the most wanted countries anymore.

Lander's statement says that the International Amateur Radio Clubs has now decided to focus its activities on special modes or conference delegates. Also that it will limit all overnight and weekend activities as much as possible. More about 4U1ITU is on line at http://life.itu.int/radioclub/ (DXNL)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUITSAT-2 LOOSES THE SUIT PART BUT WILL STILL FLY

The SuitSat-2 ham radio in space transponder will not be in a space suit but the package will likely still fly in space. Due to storage considerations on the International Space Station, the two surplus Russian space suits in storage were discarded via the Progress Cargo Vessel. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming SuitSat-2 mission.

But all is not lost. ARISS International has been informed that there is still space available for shipment of the SuitSat-2 electronics on a cargo flight to the I-S-S in January 2010. Also, a space-walk scheduled for April 2010 still has a 'SuitSat-2' deployment scheduled to be a part of it. As a result the AMSAT team developing the SuitSat-2 electronics on is focusing on completing the project in anticipation that deployment will still take place in Spring 2010, but using a different structure to house the flight package.

The discarding of the surplus space suits from ISS also removes the 'Suit' component of this ham radio in space deployment. AMSAT says that at some point a new project name will be used to reflect the

change in flight hardware configuration. (AMSAT)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUITSAT-2 TEAM TO MEET - BUILD - AND TWITTER

And speaking of SuitSat 2, or what was to be called SuitSat-2, many members of the integration team were scheduled to meet in Phoenix, Arizona during the weekend of July 10th to the 12th. In a press release the team says that it expects to put all of the hardware modules together that have been developed in many parts of the country.

The Project Manager is Gould WA4SXM. He says that it is great to be at the point that they can start testing system operations with the hardware and software. You can keep up with the integration activities next weekend using Twitter at twitter (dot) com (slash) ggolulssmith. (ANS)

**

RESTRUCTURING: BELARUS HAMS GET NEW 40 AND 160 METER SEGMENTS

The 40 meter expansion continues around the world. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham in the UK with more:

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Amateurs in Belarus has gained access to the extended 40 meter band. In the 7.1 to 7.2 MHz frequency range. Hams in that nation will be permitted to use SSB and CW with 500 watts out under normal operating conditions and up to a full kilowatt in contests with special authorization from that nations telecommunications regulatory authority the Belarus State Commission for Radio Frequencies.

In the same decision of the 160m band has also been extended for Belarus amateurs. The frequencies accessible are now 1,810 to 2,000kHz.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jeramy Boot, G4NJG in Nottingham.

--

The effective date on these changes for Belarus hams was the middle of this past May but have only now been made public. (GB2RS)

**

RESTRUCTURING: FRANCE TO EXPAND 40 METER SEGMENT

The French telecommunications regulator ARCEP announced on Saturday, June 27th, that 7.1 to 7.2 MHz will soon be available to the amateur service in that nation. Its reported that only one more signature is needed before official publication and implementation. (GB2RS)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: GLORIOSO DXPEDITION DELAYED AGAIN

Some breaking news in the world of DX. Word that the long awaited Glorioso Island 2009 DXpedition has once again been postponed. This time because of flight problems.

According to several DX news sources, the runway at the airport on Grande Glorieuse Island suffers from stability problems. These have to be solved to allow the safe landing of larger aircraft.

Organizers think that the DXpedition could begin at the end of August, but have not yet released a new date. We will have more DX related information near the end of this weeks newscast. (OPDX, others)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Western Amateur Radio Association net serving Fullerton, California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: 3.760 NO LONGER BEING PROTECTED FOR POLISH FLOODING

A follow-up to the use of 3 point 760 MHz in Poland following massive flooding in that nation. You may recall that hams around the world were being asked to keep that frequency as clear as possible in case it was needed for disaster relief communications.

Now, Greg Mossop, G0DUB, the IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Co-Ordinator says that there is no longer any need to protect 3 point 760 MHz. He says that while there is still a risk of flooding in the South West of Poland, the Public Communications systems are all now operating normally. That said, if you happen to hear any station passing emergency traffic, then please leave the frequency clear and avoid causing QRM.

By the way, while not widely known outside of Europe, Polish stations make use of a slash D suffix on their callsign to indicate that they are working an emergency. This says G0DUB should help in case of any language difficulties. (Southgate)

**

RADIO LAW: NEW OREGON MOBILE CELLPHONE LAW EXEMPTS HAMS ABD CB OPERATORS

Oregon drivers soon will have to hang up their cellphones and texting devices under a new law that will ban the use of hand-held communications devices while driving, but mobile ham radio operations will not be affected. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, explains whose in Oregon is covered by it and who is not:

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Oregon House Bill 2377 prohibits driving while talking or texting on a hand-held cell phone. Once in force, drivers who violate the law could be fined up to $90.

Like a similar law in California, the Oregon measure permits adult drivers the option of using a cellphone with a hands free system. Also like California the Oregon law will forbid anyone to receive or transmit a text message while in motion. It also forbids drivers under the age of 18 from using any form of cellphone or texting device from a car in motion.

Oregon radio amateurs were aware of the measure early on and began a political drive to insure an exemption for mobile ham radio operations. In the version of the measure passed by both houses of the Oregon legislature their work was rewarded.

In addition to hams, also exempt are those operating a motor vehicle while acting in the scope of employment as a public safety officer and people operating a motor vehicle while providing public safety services or emergency services as a volunteer. Also exempt are those using 11 meter Citizens Radio or UHF Family Radio Service two-way radio gear.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

A spokeswoman for Governor Ted Kulongoski said he will sign House Bill 2377 into law. The effective date will be January 1st, 2010. (OregonLive, Oregon Legislative Website)

**

RADIO SAFETY: MICHIGAM HAM DIES IN FIELD DAY TOWER COLLAPSE

A Michigan ham has died following a tower collapse during antenna set-up on Field Day.

According to news reports, Larry Prelog, KE4PM, of Niles was helping to erect a thirty-foot high tower for the Blossomland Amateur Radio Association on Saturday, June 27th. He had climbed the tower when it collapsed under him and throwing him to the ground. He was airlifted to the Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo where he succumb to his injuries the following day.

A professional radio technician by trade, Larry Perlog was most recently employed as a telecommunications specialist for Lakeland Regional Health Care System. Throughout his career performed many tower climbs and was considered as being one of the most safety conscious climbers in the business. A family member described him as being very meticulous about being safe.

The Blossomland Amateur Radio Association is accepting donations to help the family. Its address is PO Box 175, St. Joe, Michigan 49085.

Larry Perlog, KE4PM, was age 57. (South Bend Tribune, others)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC AND LICENSEE AGREE ON LICENSE CLERICAL ERROR FIX

The FCC has modified the Amateur Radio Service license of Howard A. Schmidt by replacing Amateur Extra Class operator privileges with Technician Class operator privileges. This, after being notified of a clerical error by a VEC who had inadvertently filed an upgrade for him. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

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Back this past April 28th, the W5YI Volunteer Examiner Coordinator sent an electronic data file to the Commission requesting that Howard Schmidt's operator license for amateur Station WB7NUV be modified to upgrade from Technician Class to Amateur Extra and requesting a new sequential call sign. Based on this application, the Commission granted an Amateur Extra Class amateur service operator license on April 28th and assigned him the call AD7ZS.

Then on June 16th, W5YI VEC notified the Commission that it had made an error in the April 28th data file and that Schmidt had not qualified for an Amateur Extra Class operator license. The W5YI VEC asked the FCC to modify Schmidt's license to correct the operator privileges authorized. As a result of this information the regulatory agency proposed to modify the license to show Technician Class operator privileges, and to replace call sign AD7ZS with call sign WB7NUV.

The Order Proposing Modification was released on June 25th. Schmidt was given time to comment and appeal. On June 30th Schmidt informed the Commission that he did not object to modifying his license to show Technician Class operator privileges, but wished to retain his subsequently assigned call sign W7HAS.

On July 7th the FCC did just that. It modified Schmidt's license for station W7HAS by replacing Amateur Extra Class operator privileges with Technician Class operator privileges but permitted the Issaquah, Washington ham to keep the W7HAS vanity call.

For the amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the amateur Radio Newsline.

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And as they say in the nations capital, this matter is now closed. (FCC)

** RADIO PRODUCTS: K9EID RELEASES AFFORDABLE PR-20 UTILITY VERSION MIC

If you have always wanted to try Bob Heil's famed PR-20 microphone in your hamshack but its high price was beyond your means, well now you can afford to own one. This is because the PR-20 has now been made a lot more affordable thanks to K9EID and his company Heil Sound Limited.

What Bob has done is to keep the PR-20 as it is. Just the way he developed it several years ago to be one of the best sounding vocal, announce and music pick-up microphones ever. So this PR-20 called the U T or utility model is no different than any other PR-20 except for the accessories and packaging.

In this case you get the PR-20 mic with a stainless steel grille, a foam windscreen and a matching microphone clip all in a zippered vinyl pouch. Not included with the U T model are the interchangeable gold, silver and black screw-on grill screens, nor the plush padded carrying case.

By leaving these items out Bob was able to lower the price of the PR-20 into the very affordable under a hundred dollar range. That's far less than some vendors charge for the mics that supposedly match the look of certain radio gear bit leave a lot to be desired in the area of on the air sound quality.

You can read the specs as well as see and hear the Heil PR-20 UT on line. Just take your web browser to http://heilsound.com/pro/products/pr20ut/ (PAR, ARNewsline(tm))

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: MISSOURI SKYWARN MEMBER HONORED

Some names in the news. First up is MoKan Skywarn member Dwayne Beaver, N0SZP, of Carthage, Missouri,. HE has been presented with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration award in honor of his 15 years as a cooperative observer for the National Weather Service.

Beaver runs the Carthage weather station that happens to be located in his own home. The Carthage Missouri weather station was first established on March 1, 1940, by the Congressional Statutes enacted by Congress in 1890. For years was located out at the Carthage animal shelter. Only after Beaver began weather observer duties on May 25, 1994, did it move to his home QTH.

Beaver's weather data collecting gear includes an eight-inch rain gauge, a wind gauge, various thermometers and anemometers. Most of this is top of the line weather gathering instrumentation that was provided to him. Beaver also has television cameras installed on the roof of his house looking south for any sign of menacing storm clouds.

The N0SZP weather station in Carthage is one of 96 such stations in 37 counties in Missouri and Kansas. There are about 10,000 such stations nationwide. (Carthage Press)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VO1DTM NEW RAC VP FOR FIELD SERVICES

Radio Amateurs of Canada has a new Vice President for Field Services. He is Doug Mercer, VO1DTM, who replaces Sue Cooke VE3SUH, who was appointed by the RAC Board of Directors. This, to temporarily fill the

position when former Vice President for Field Services Bob Cooke, VE3BDB. He resigned that post to accept appointment as president of Radio Amateurs of Canada on February 24th. Mercer's appointment became effective on July 1st and will continue until December 31st which is the end of the current executive term. He may be contacted by email at vo1dtm (at) hotmail (dot) com. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ALBERTA CANADA GETS NEW CSM

Also from up North word that the Alberta Section of Radio Amateurs of Canada has a new Section Manager. This, in the person of Garry Jacobs, VE6CIA.

Jacobs ran unopposed and therefore no balloted election was necessary. He began a two-year term on July 1st succeeding Tom Martens, VE6TRM. (RAC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ZL2AMJ AWARDED RUTHERFORD THRPHY

Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ, has won The New Zealand Institute of Physics Rutherford Trophy for 2008. This, for his work in developing the radio wave demonstration kits for schools.

The Rutherford Trophy was established in 1973 by the Mathematics and Physics section of the Radio Society of New Zealand's Christchurch Branch. Its purpose is to stimulate the development and improvement of simple lecture and laboratory demonstrations.

As 2009 winner, Johnson will receive a check for $200 New Zealand dollars. Development of his educational kit was supported by The NZART Radioscience Education Trust. Fred's kits and documentation are shown at http://www.nzart.org.nz/waves/radiowaves.html (NZART)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

WORLDBEAT: DAYTON OR FRIEDRICHSHAFEN - WHICH IS BIGGER

Is the Ham Radio convention in Friedrichshafen, Germany, about to match or even replace Dayton as the worlds most attended amateur radio show? According to several sources this years Ham Radio had an official gate

of 17,400 visitors. That's up by 300 from 2008. Also, some 195 exhibitors and radio associations from 30 nations represented at the show.

So far, Dayton has not made public its official attendance figure, but many who regularly attend the Hamvention have speculated that 2009 saw about the same number of attendees as 2008 or maybe a few more. If that's the case then it would likely put Dayton and Friedrichshafen at least neck to neck. We will have to await the folks in Dayton making public their attendance figures to know for sure.

Meantime, you can make a note of the dates of the 35th Ham Radio will be from June 25th to the 27th in 2010 in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Hamvention 2010 will take place May 14th to the 16th 2010 at its usual home at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. (KH6VP, DJ0QN, others)

**

WORLDBEAT: SCOTISH D-STAT REPEATER SET UP WITH LOTTERY GRANT FUNDS

Scotland's Dundee Amateur Radio Club was recently awarded a grant of nearly 3,000 Pounds by the National Lottery Awards for all Scheme. This monies have been used to purchase the equipment required to provide a D Star digital UHF repeater to serve the ham radio community from Dundee, Angus and North Fife. Full information and coverage of this new D-Star Repeater can be found at the D-Star Scotland website at www.dstarinfo.org. (Icom Japan, Southgate)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: TERRESTRIAL TRAINING FOR SOON TO FLY ARISS HAMS

Four astronauts hams have taken part in simulated Amateur Radio on the International Space Station contacts. On Thursday, July 2nd Satoshi Furukawa, KE5DAW and Timothy J. Creamer, KC5WKI had contacts with Ottawa area students in Canada. Later, Doug Wheelock, KF5BOC, and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP, participated in contacts with students visiting the Challenger Learning Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. These training sessions are ground based amateur radio contacts using ARISS equivalent equipment to familiarize the soon to fly astronauts with the proper method of making schoolroom contacts from space. (AMSAT)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT DAYTON FORUM VIDEOS NOW ON LINE

Videos of the six presentations at the AMSAT 2009 Dayton Hamvention forum are now on the AMSAT website. The presentations include the Richard Garriott, W5WKQ, talk on his visit to the International Space Station and a presentation on the upcoming what was to be Suit-Sat 2 project by Gould Smith, WA4SXM. To watch these presentations and the others, simply go to www.amsat .org and click on the AMSAT Video News icon about halfway down the page in the left column. (ANS)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING THE J. ROBERTO LEVY RADIO CLUB

On the air, listen out for 4C50C which is an unusual Mexican callsign that will be showing up on the satellites between now and August 31st. Its part of the Work All Colima special event currently taking place in the central Mexican state of Colima.

This event also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the creation of the J. Roberto Levy radio club in that state. To help in the celebration, XE1AO, XE1ATZ, XE1AY, and XE1J have been authorized by the Mexican telecommunications regulator to use 4C50C for satellite QSO's as part of this event.

XE50C will be the call used for terrestrial contacts during the event. For hams outside Mexico, the QSL manager for the both special calls is XE1J. The Mexican QSL bureau will take care of QSL requests from XE hams. (AMSAT, XE1AO)

**

ON THE AIR: HONG KONG, SPECIAL EVENT STATION

The 5th East Asian Games will take place on Hong Kong from Dec 5th to the 13th. Starting on July 1st the special commemorative callsign VR2009EAG has been on the air using SSB, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV on 40 through 6 meters until the end of the year. QSL only direct via VR2XMT. (Southgate)

**

THE CONTEST CORNER: FIRST EVER D-STAR WORLD CONTEST JULY 25 - 31

On the radiosports scene, Icom Japan has announced that it will be sponsoring the first ever worldwide D-Star Contest. The event will run from July 25th to the 31st and there are several categories of entries including repeater and simplex. Multiple entry into different categories will be allowed.

10 winners will be selected from those participating and will receive either an IC-E80D or IC-80AD D-Star handheld as a prize. The results being announced on the Icom booth at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2009.

For more details and a list of contest rules, please visit the Icom Japan website. Its on-line at http://www.icom.co.jp/world/d-contest. A copy of the contest flyer can be downloaded at http://www.icomuk.co.uk/getFile.asp?categoryID508&cCID377&fFID$ 4) (Icom Japan)

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DX

In DX, word that T32TV is a new operator on the air from Kiritimati. He has been heard on 20 meter SSB after 06:00 UTC. Please be patient

with him so as he is not only new to ham radio but news to pile-ups as well. QSL as directed on the air.

CR57FAP is a special call now on the air to celebrate the 57 years that the Portuguese airforce has existed. This station will be active though months end using SSB and some digital modes on 80 through 10 meters. The QSL manager is CT1REP.

W5KDJ, will be active from Madagascar through July 17th He is using CW and RTTY on 160 through 6 meters signing 5R8KD from the shack of 5R8FU. QSL as the operator instructs.

The Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region Group as IV3YNB is active from Grado Island. The operation ends on July 22nd. QSL this one also as directed on the air.

The Venezuelan 4M5DX Group says that it is planning a DXpedition to Lesotho sometime in July. Their callsign will be 7P8YV and the QSLs will be handled by IT9DAA. An exact date or other information was not available as we go to air.

6 meter enthusiasts listen up. HB9QQ, is now active from the Maldives as 8Q7QQ. In addition to his transceiver he has a linear amplifier and is on 50.183 operating the digital JT65A mode. Listen out for him around his moonrise and moonset in search of Sporadic E and EME contacts. QSL via HB9QQ. He will be there through July 11th.

Lastly, 3B8FQ has received approval and will activate St. Brandon Island as 3B7FQ in August. He will be departing Mauritius on August 10th, and returning from St. Brandon on August 30th. Operation will be CW and SSB on 40 through 10 meters. QSL 3B7FQ and via K5XK per the information found on QRZ.com. And you might want to go out of your way to work him. 3B8FQ believes this may be the last trip to St. Brandon for the next five years.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: FIELD DAY COMES TO TV IN KC

And finally this week, if its not the best TV news coverage of Field Day it comes real close. We are talking about the 10 minutes spread across the news on Kansas City's Fox 4 that looked at every aspect of the Field Day operation by the K0GQ group in Raytown, Missouri.:

--

Audio: Reporter introduces ham radio. Hear it in the audio version of this weeks newscast available for download at www.arnewsline.org.

--

That's reporter Kim Byrns who hosted the coverage in a live remote broadcast from the Field Day site. Her guide was Rayton Amateur Radio

Club president Barb Rich, KGï¿½UT who began by explaining the role of ham radio in community service:

--

Audio: KG0UT explains role of hams in emergencies. Hear it in the audio version of this weeks newscast available for download at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Also interviewed was club member John Zimmerman who brought out some of his vintage gear to show. It was quickly evident that for him Field Day is a passion:

--

Audio: Zimmerman tells of his love of Field Day. Hear it in the audio version of this weeks newscast available for download at www.arnewsline.org.

--

You can see and hear the whole report posted to YouTube dot com. That's where we got the audio you just heard. Heres a link to it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3gRWG-EUGU (NF9L, QRZ.com, YouTube, others)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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318. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 27 (Friday, July 10, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-10 20:53:36 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090710202422.C215130FEF@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1928
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 27
July 10, 2009
***************

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* + August QST on the Way to Your Mailbox
* + IARU Member-Societies On-The-Air for IARU HF World Championship
* + 500 kHz Experimenters in North America, Europe Get Active
* + New Section Manager Appointed in Ohio
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ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Six New Co-sponsors Pledge Support for HR 2160
Tenth Annual "Night of Nights" On-The-Air July 12
NTS Official Jim Leist, KB5W (SK)

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STANDING COMMITTEES TO MEET IN CONNECTICUT
NEXT WEEK

The ARRL Board of Directors holds its second meeting of 2009 July 17-18
in Windsor, Connecticut, with Directors, Vice Directors and ARRL Board
officers in attendance. The meeting will be preceded on Thursday, July
16 with meetings of the Administration and Finance Committee and the
Programs and Services Committee.

The Administration and Finance Committee is chaired by Northwestern
Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF. This committee will review the
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League's financial performance for the first half of the year and will receive the report of the outside auditors.

The Programs and Services Committee, headed by Midwest Division Director Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, studies, advises and makes recommendations for all programs and services provided by the League, including operating activities and the Field Organization. "All three Advisory Committees -- DX, Contest and VHF/UHF Contest -- have been busy since the last board meeting," Frahm said. "The PSC appreciates their deliberations on behalf of their stakeholders. Through a number of annual ARRL award programs, we have the pleasure of presenting motions to the board to recognize hams for their superior instruction, technical excellence, outstanding publicity and other achievements. The Emergency Preparedness and Response program, and EmComm issues in general, are taking more of the committee's time as we work to ensure maximum effectiveness of staff and volunteer efforts to work with served agencies. The PSC is excited about the upcoming release of the Advanced ARECC EmComm course (replacing Levels II and III) <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html> with a new syllabus and some innovative presentation methods. We also look forward to the availability of a couple more awards via Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>. This online QSO confirmation tool is ever more popular. These are some of the interesting and challenging issues the committee will discuss."

The second day of the meeting will be devoted to a review and updating of the ARRL Strategic Plan. Per the Articles of Association <http://www.arrl.org/aabl.html>, the ARRL Board of Directors meets twice a year, in January and July.

==> ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE: "IT IS ELEMENTARY, IT IS ADVANCED, IT IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE"

Four sessions of the ARRL's Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology wrapped up in June <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. These sessions -- in Tucson, Arizona; Rocklin, California; Viera, Florida, and Berrien Springs, Michigan -- saw 52 educators complete the four day course. The California and Arizona sessions were held simultaneously, marking the first time that the ARRL has offered simultaneous sessions of the popular summer program for teachers. According to Education and Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, the addition of two new TI instructors made it possible to hold two sessions at the same time. "With Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, and Nathan McCray, K9CPO, on board," Spencer said, "we are able to hold more sessions, and in turn, involve more teachers in the process of bringing wireless technology into their classrooms."

Tucson, Arizona -- June 15-18
At Pueblo Magnet High School in Tucson, Enriquez led a group of 16 local teachers through the four day curriculum that includes basic electronics, the science of radio, space in the classroom, microcontroller programming and basic robotics. The class included nine math teachers from Pueblo, three special education teachers from Pueblo,

one 4th grade teacher from a feeder elementary school to Pueblo, two graduate students/teaching assistants in fields involving electronics from University Medical Center (University of Arizona teaching hospital) and one University of Arizona employee commissioned to work with area schools and recruit high school students into space, science and mathematics programs at the University of Arizona.

"The majority of the participants had expressed an interest in learning electronics," Enriquez said. "In the coming year, I plan on following up the introduction they received at the TI by teaching electronics as part of a professional development program."

Enriquez said that each of the teachers will refer students whom they believe will be interested in ham radio to his "Radio, Space and Wireless Technologies" class he will begin teaching this fall: "Several teachers who have that period as their planning period also stated they would drop by to see the students in action and perhaps even help teach!"

Enriquez said that there are 16 "really excited teachers in Tucson right now. I intend to do everything I can to get them all involved in the application of the knowledge and procedures they learned this week. The only way we can really make the Teachers Institutes ultra successful is to coordinate a cadre of teachers who understand and apply the knowledge and tools the Teachers Institutes provides. Teacher collaboration is essential toward this endeavor."

Rocklin, California -- June 15-18
Spencer conducted the Teachers Institute held at the Parallax facility in Rocklin. "This group is more geographically diverse than the Tucson group," he said, "with teachers from nine states from coast to coast."

Since the Tucson and Rocklin sessions were held at the same time, Spencer said "we tried to connect the teachers in the Tucson session with the teachers in the California session via an AO-27 contact; satellites are part of the space in the classroom unit. Unfortunately, this was not successful due to unforeseen complications with accessing the satellite; however, a later attempt to demonstrate ham radio space technology was successful."

Viera, Florida -- June 23-26
Fourteen educators took part in the Teachers Institute in Florida, also led by Spencer. "This group was predominantly from the Southeastern US, but a few participants joined the group from Missouri and Virginia," he said. "The class was evenly split between male and female teachers. All grade levels were represented and six participants were either old-time hams or recently licensed in preparation for the Teachers Institute."

Spencer said to make the AO-27 satellite contact, they used call sign W1AW/4. "The weather even cooperated, and though hot and humid, the fox hunt outdoor activity went off without a hitch -- including a tornado warning that occurred the morning of the outdoor activities," he said.

"Thanks for everything. It was elementary it was advanced, it is something for everyone," one educator told Spencer. "I know I will be incorporating many of your topics into the classroom."

One of the participants summarized the experience simply: "This was the best in-service course that we have ever attended -- and we have attended a lot!"

Berrien Springs, Michigan -- June 29-July 2
McCray led 10 educators through the Teachers Institute at the Berrien Regional Education Service in Michigan. "I had a class that was half men and half women," he said. "Most were from the Midwest, but we did have two from New York State, one from California and one from South Carolina. We had representatives from all walks of the education world: Two elementary teachers, five junior high teachers, two high school teachers and one college professor. Only four were hams and two of them have expired licenses. The electronics knowledge level was low, but they were motivated and proved to be a joy to teach all week."

McCray said that the highlights of the week included a successful AO-27 contact and multiple contacts on 2 meters with local children who were attending a camp. "The work with the VOMs, protoboard and building the boe-bots were also big hits," he said. "We also went quite deep with the 'What's a Microcontroller?' unit."

One of the teachers told McCray that the Teachers Institute has changed the way she will present her curriculum. "I have been inspired to pursue my Technician license and to add more hands-on electronics activities into my 9th grade physical science class," the teacher said. "I would also like to set up a ham station in my school."

Another teacher called the Teachers Institute a "most rewarding experience. There is so much I learned about robotics, weather and ham radio operation. I have so much information to take back to the classroom and share with my students and fellow staff members. Thank you for this opportunity!"

A session of the ARRL Teachers Institute wrapped up Thursday, July 9 in Dayton, Ohio. The last session will take place at ARRL Headquarters on July 27-30.

==> AUGUST QST ON THE WAY TO YOUR MAILBOX

The August issue of QST is jam-packed with the news and information that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone. This issue also features the 2008 DXCC Honor Roll.

Allen Baker, KG4JJH, doesn't let the lack of sunspot activity get in the way of chasing DX. Find out his solution in his article "A 10 Meter Moxon Beam." Larry Cicchinelli, K3PTO, shows a compact way to power your equipment in his article "Four Output Bench Supply." If you like to operate from your car, you won't want to miss "The Ignition Switch" by Wayne Mahnker, WA5LUY.

Is your Amateur Radio club looking to get for publicity for your events? Check out "Putting Ham Radio in the Cable Spotlight" by ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, for some tips. In August, QST goes to new heights with two articles featuring high altitudes: "QRP from the Top of the Maritimes" by Mark Volstad, AI4BJ, and "Ham Radio in the Air" by Eskil van Loosdrecht, AB6BC/SM5SRR.

In his monthly column "This Month in Contesting," ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, discusses club participation in contests: "There are several reasons to join a contesting club," he tells readers. "Making new friends, meeting people to operate contests with and maybe even finding a little extra muscle when it's time to put up your tower are just a few. Contest clubs also combine their members' individual scores and enter many events in the Club Competition, hoping to win a commemorative gavel for their efforts." The results of the 2009 ARRL International DX CW Contest are also in the August issue. Find out about upcoming contests in this month's Contest Corral.

QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, reviews the Alinco DJ-175T 2 meter FM handheld transceiver. Ford said that the "Alinco DJ-T175T is a compact handheld with more than enough power (and features) to satisfy the needs of most hams. At around $99, it's a standout among low-cost handhelds." QST Product Review Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, reviews four switching power supplies, saying "all of these supplies effortlessly deliver high current for your transceiver and accessories and include voltage and current metering and protection circuits. Although all of them have low conducted emissions (which can cause interference to your receiver) in the amateur bands, there are some significant differences at low frequencies."

Of course, there are the columns you know and expect in the August QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, Amateur Radio World, How's DX, Vintage Radio, Hamspeak and more. Look for your August issue of QST in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> IARU MEMBER-SOCIETIES ON-THE-AIR FOR IARU HF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

In this weekend's IARU HF World Championship Contest <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/02/10934/?nc=1>, IARU Member-Societies from all around the globe will be active and operating with special call signs. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, many of these call signs end in HQ, designating a national headquarters station; these can be worked as special multipliers in the contest. Kutzko said that IARU Administrative Council members will also be on and can also be worked for special multiplier credit: "If you hear a station giving R1, R2, R3 or AC as their contest exchange, that station represents part of the IARU Administrative Council or regional Executive Committee."

The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com/> has compiled a chart listing all of the known IARU Member Society call signs that are scheduled to be on-the-air for the contest:

PREFIX CALL SIGN/IARU MEMBER SOCIETY COUNTRY
4L 4L0HQ (NARG) Georgia
5N 5N0HQ (NARS) Nigeria
9K 9K9HQ (KARS) Kuwait
9Y 9Y4HQ (TTARS) Trinidad and Tobago
9Y 9Y4NED (EC R2) Trinidad and Tobago
AT AT1HQ (ARSI) India
BV BV0HQ (CTARL) Taiwan
BY B1HQ (CRSA) China
BY B3HQ (CRSA) China
BY B4HQ (CRSA) China
BY B5HQ (CRSA) China
BY B7HQ (CRSA) China
CE CE3HQ or XR3HQ (RCC) Chile
CO T40C (FRC) Cuba
CT CR5HQ (REP) Portugal
CX CX1AAA (RCU) Uruguay
DL DA0HQ (DARC) Germany
DU DX1HQ (PARA) Philippines
E7 E7HQ (BA) Bosnia-Herzegovina
EA8 AO8HQ (URE) Canary Islands (Spain)
EM EM5HQ (UARL) Ukraine
F TM0HQ (REF) France
G/GM/GW G3PSM (EC R1) Great Britain
G/GM/GW GB7HQ (RSGB) Great Britain
HB9 HB9HQ (USKA) Switzerland
HB9 HB9JOE (EC R1) Switzerland
HL HL0HQ (KARL) South Korea
HR HQ2W (RCH) Honduras
HS HS0AC (RAST) Thailand
I IU1HQ (ARI) Italy
I IU2HQ (ARI) Italy
I IU4HQ (ARI) Italy
I IU5HQ (ARI) Italy
I IU8HQ (ARI) Italy
I IU9HQ (ARI) Italy
JA 8N1HQ (JARL) Japan
JA 8N2HQ (JARL) Japan
JA 8N3HQ (JARL) Japan
JA 8N4HQ (JARL) Japan
JA 8N8HQ (JARL) Japan
JY JY6HQ (RJRAS) Jordan
KH6 NU1AW/KH6 (IARU) USA (Hawaii)
KL7 W1AW/KL7 (ARRL) USA (Alaska)
LA LA2RR (AC) Norway
LA LN2HQ (NRRL) Norway
LU L4RD (RCA) Argentina

LU LU2AH (EC R2) Argentina
LX LX0HQ (RL) Luxembourg
LY LY0HQ (LRMD) Lithuania
LZ LZ1US (EC R1) Bulgaria
LZ LZ7HQ (BFRA) Bulgaria
OD OD5TE (EC R1) Lebanon
OE OE1A (OVSV) Austria
OH OH2HQ (SARL) Finland
OK OL9HQ (CRC) Czech Republic
ON OP0HQ (UBA) Belgium
OZ OZ1HQ (EDR) Denmark
P4 P40HQ (AARC) Aruba
PA PA6HQ (VERON) Netherlands
PY PT2ADM (EC R2) Brazil
R R0HQ (SRR) Russia
S5 S50HQ (ZRS) Slovenia
SM SK9HQ (SSA) Sweden
SP SN0HQ (PZK) Poland
SV SX0HQ (RAAG) Greece
TG TG9AGD (EC R2) Guatemala
UN UN1HQ (KFFR) Kazakhstan
VE VE6SH (AC) Canada
VK VK7WI (WIA) Australia
VR2 VR2HK (HARTS) Hong Kong
W K1ZZ (AC) USA
W W6ROD (EC R2) USA
XE XE1KK (AC) Mexico
XE XE1LM (FMRE) Mexico
XX9 XX9A (ARM) Macau
YL YL4HQ (LRAL) Latvia
YO YR0HQ (FRR) Romania
YV YV5AJ (RCV) Venezuela
YV YV5AMH (EC R2) Venezuela
Z3 Z30HQ (RSM) Macedonia
ZL ZL2AZ (EC R3) New Zealand
ZL ZL6HQ (NZART) New Zealand
ZP ZP5AA (RCP) Paraguay
ZS ZS0HQ (SARL) South Africa
ZS ZS4BS (EC R1) South Africa

AC = IARU Administrative Council, EC = Regional Executive Committee

With HQ stations from each continent on-the-air for the contest, this would be a great time to get your Worked All Continents Award <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/09/20/10346/?nc=1>.

Some stations have provided QSL information <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/06/10947/?nc=1>. The IARU HF World Championship runs from 1200 UTC Saturday, July 11 to 1200 UTC Sunday, July 12. For complete rules and forms, you can visit the IARU Contest Web page <http://www.iaru.org/contest.html> or the ARRL Contest

Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests>.

==> 500 KHZ EXPERIMENTERS IN NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE GET ACTIVE

In the 500 kHz Experiment <http://www.500kc.com/> quarterly report for the period ending May 2009, Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, reported that 21 stations are currently active. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted the WD2XSH experimental license to the ARRL in September 2006. In this quarter, the FCC only issued one new experimental license for 500 kHz, WF2XAU to Roy Croston, AB4OM. The FCC renewed WD2XGI to Mike Reid, WE0H.

In the spring of 2009, hams in the WD2XSH experimental group made one contact, bringing the total number of contacts to 336. Almost 500 reports were made to the 500 kHz Experiment's Web site, documenting 1051 hours of activity. Raab said more than 34,000 hours of activity has been logged on the Web site since the experiment's inception. Stations do not have to be members of the experimental team to post reception reports.

Raab said that due to increasing noise levels, activity has slowed some on the band, but "propagation conditions have remained generally good with a number of long distance receptions." He said that most of the quarter's activity came from WD2XSH/6, run by Pat Hamel, W5THT, of Long Beach, Mississippi, and WD2XSH/12, run by Mike Mussler, AI8Z, of Nederland, Colorado.

Individuals in nine other countries hold licenses to experiment in the 500 kHz band: Sweden, Germany, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Norway, Romania and Denmark.

To celebrate International Marconi Day on April 25, a Marconi official station using Marconi equipment completed a radio contact that was similar to those Marconi himself achieved many years ago. GB4FPR was operated from the Fort Perch Rock Marine Radio Museum near Liverpool <http://www.gb4imd.org.uk/fortperch.htm>. The operators used Marconi marine equipment and CW, receiving a 539 report from VO1MRC in St John's, Newfoundland <http://www.ucs.mun.ca/%7Ejcraig/mrcn.html>. GB4FPR was transmitting 1 W ERP on 502 kHz and receiving the Canadian station on 3566 kHz in this transatlantic crossband QSO.

On June 18, Norwegian coastal station LGQ in Rogaland and LM500LGN in Bergen made a QSO on 500 kHz. LM500LGN is a special heritage license arranged by the NRRL, Norway's IARU Member-Society, and Norkram. According to Raab, this is the first issuance of a license specifically for heritage operations.

Find out more information on the ARRL's 500 kHz Experiment in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>.

==> NEW SECTION MANAGER APPOINTED IN OHIO

Frank Piper, KI8GW, of Pickerington, has been appointed Section Manager of the ARRL Ohio Section. He will serve the balance of the term of Joe Phillips, K8QOE; Phillips passed away on June 20 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/22/10901/?nc=1>.

Piper has moved up the ranks in ARES leadership positions by first serving as Emergency Coordinator from 2002-2003 and then as District Emergency Coordinator from 2003-2006. He was promoted to Section Emergency Coordinator, serving in that position until 2008. Piper has also served as an Official Emergency Station in the ARRL Field Organization since 1997.

According to the Rules and Regulations of the Field Organization, when a vacancy in the office of Section Manager occurs between elections, the position is filled by appointment. Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, in consultation with Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, made the appointment effective July 7. His term of appointment continues through September 30, 2010.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "If it happens the Sun is shining bright" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Finally, some sunspot activity to report -- and not one of those phantom spots that appear one day and vanish the next. Sunspot group 1024 first emerged a week ago on July 3 with a daily sunspot number of 17 and the magnetic signature of a new Solar Cycle 24 spot. Over the next few days, it grew more rapidly and became larger than any sunspot group in the past two years. Today, July 10, it should pass over the Sun's western limb and disappear. Sunspot numbers for July 2-8 were 0, 17, 24, 26, 23, 21 and 18 with a mean of 18.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.5, 67.3, 71, 71.6, 68.9, 71.3 and 70.8 with a mean of 69.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 3, 6, 4, 5 and 6 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 3, 2, 4, 3, 3 and 3 with a mean of 2.9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by T.S. Eliot's "The Song of the Jellicles" <http://poetry.poetryx.com/poems/789/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the IARU HF World Championship is July 11-12. The NCCC Sprint Ladder is July 10. The FISTS Summer Sprint and the Feld Hell Sprint are July 11. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint are both July 12. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is July 16. Next week is another NCCC Sprint Ladder on July 17. The North American QSO Party (RTTY), the DMC RTTY Contest and the CQ Worldwide VHF Contest are July 18-19. The CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush is July 19. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is July 20 and the SKCC

Sprint is July 22. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, July 26, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, August 7, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Six New Co-sponsors Pledge Support for HR 2160: Earlier this week, HR 2160 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- gained six new Congressional co-sponsors, bringing the total number to 14: W. Todd Akin (MO-2), Michael Arcuri (NY-24), Michael Honda (CA-15), Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11), Charlie Melancon (LA-3) and Peter Welch (VT). Originally sponsored by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), HR 2160 is also sponsored by Roscoe Bartlett (MD-6), Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Bart Gordon (TN-6), Brett Guthrie (KY-2), Mary Jo Kilroy (OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-9) and Bennie Thompson (MS-2). Check the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818> for information on how to encourage your Congressional representative to sponsor HR 2160 <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

* Tenth Annual "Night of Nights" On the Air July 12: The Maritime Radio Historical Society's 10th annual CW-only Night of Nights <http://www.radiomarine.org/non10.html>, commemorating the history of maritime radio, is scheduled for Sunday, July 12 at 1701 PDT (Monday, July 13 at 0001 UTC). Years ago, the maritime mobile bands were populated edge-to-edge with powerful coast stations that operated from virtually every country on every continent. The ships of world trade and

the great passenger liners filled the air with their radiograms, as well as their calls for help when in danger on the sea. Now those bands are largely silent. But once a year, the MRHS returns stations KPH, KSM and KFS to the air. Other stations, including WLO, KLB, NMC, NOJ and NMN, often join in. Calls from ships at sea make the event seem like the golden age of maritime radio has returned. The MRHS's club station, K6KPH, will be on-the-air on several frequencies, receiving signal reports from other amateur stations. The K6KPH operators are seasoned commercial operators with years of experience "sitting the circuit" and will give amateur stations the experience of what it was like to work a real coast station. More information regarding the event, including suggested frequencies, is available on the Night of Nights Web page <http://www.radiomarine.org/index.html>.

* NTS Official Jim Leist, KB5W (SK): Jim Leist, KB5W, a longtime leader of the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) <http://www.emergency-radio.org/what_nts.pdf>, passed away after a long illness on June 22. He was 74. Leist, who lived in Gautier, Mississippi, was Chair of the NTS Central Area Staff, as well as a longtime ARRL Net Manager; he also served as the Mississippi Section Traffic Manager (STM) from 1987 to 1998. "Jim was an elite CW op and Manager of Region Net 5, Cycle 4, for most of the last 20 years and probably longer," said Phil Sager, WB4FDT, Manager of the NTS Third Region Net, Cycle 4. "I worked him several times each week for the six years I lived in Louisiana, and have enjoyed working him again the past five or so years on my Alpha TCC sked." A US Marine, Leist served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars; he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action during the Vietnam War. "He led reconnaissance missions during the Vietnam War, and he never lost a man," Sam Sitton, W5CU, told the ARRL. "Jim won the Star by single handedly taking out a machine gun nest while his patrol was occupied elsewhere. He was a true American hero." Leist was interred in the National Cemetery at the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia with full military honors.

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The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

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from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for
e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site
<http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during
registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW
bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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319. Re: W0DXCC

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-14 12:11:19 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h3gtvp$2qrs$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1929
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx

"K0HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:CBA9A778976244A7BBEA998C215E3D3F@Laptop...
> July 18th, 2009, at Rochester, MN. Contesting forums, vendors, DX forums,
> renowned speakers including ON4UN, N6BV, N0AX, K0IR, W0GJ,
> receiver/filter-guru Rob Sherwood, DX Banquet, and more.
>
> Detail at
> http://www.rahrahrochester.com/events/2009_W0DXCC_and_Contest/index.aspx
>
>

Just a note to remind everyone about this event, this coming Saturday.

73, de Hans, K0HB

--

320. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-15 06:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1247637601@panix.com>
Source record: 1930
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.10 2009/05/27 12:04:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader
opinions in March of 2009:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt
it permanently if successful.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and
news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc.

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message)
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

Because rec.radio.amateur.moderated is a Usenet newsgroup, there are | implied or derived guidelines for participation that are drawn from the | above articles about overall Usenet culture and tradition. Two of these | implied or derived guidelines are encapsulated in two basic rules that | our moderation team uses to initially determine whether an article is | appropriate for our newsgroup. They are restated explicitly here for | clarification: |

Basic Rule #1: The article must be on-topic for amateur radio. A | rule-of-thumb that our moderation team applies is whether the article | mentions amateur radio, ham radio, some synonym for amateur or ham | radio, some technique or practice of amateur or ham radio including | closely related technical topics such as antennas or portable power, or | regulatory politics that directly affect amateur radio. This | rule-of-thumb is also applied to determine if an article in a thread has | drifted too far off-topic. For example, articles that have drifted into | general rants or monologues will probably be returned with a polite | request to rewrite to include a reasonable amateur radio connection or | angle. |

Basic Rule #2: The article must not have excessive spelling, grammar, or | logical argument errors affecting readability and understandability. | The moderation team understands that clear, understandable, technical or | expository writing is a skill that can only be perfected through a | lifetime of focused training and practice. Because the moderation team | does not want to hold submitters to a standard higher than what it can | achieve itself, nor disrupt the newsgroup and discourage submitters by | playing spelling or grammar police, it will only return for rewrite any | article that cannot be reasonably understood by multiple moderators. |

If it is necessary to return any article for a rewrite because the | moderators have determined that it does not meet Basic Rule #1 or #2, | please accept this constructive feedback in the manner in which it is | intended. The moderation team offers its assistance to help rewrite any | submitted article into a form that preserves its original intent and | meaning, but is also on-topic, as well as readable and understandable by | others. |

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which

itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such

fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The

moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management Board:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

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321. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1666 - July 17 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-17 09:23:49 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090717021949.01696a28@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1931
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1666 - July 17 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1666 with a release date of Friday, July 17th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Australia will launch all student made ham-sat, the United States Senate wants a complete inventory of the entire electromagnetic spectrum, 40 meter expansion is delayed in some nations and we announce this years Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Find out who it is on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1666 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: VK TO LAUNCH BLUESAT - A DIGITAL HAM SATELLITE

A new ham radio digital satellite is being designed and built down-under solely by students at Australia's University of New South Wales. Its called BLUEsat and Frank Lusa, VK2FJL has its story.

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The satellite is a small cube measuring approximately 260mm on each side, excluding antennae, and weighs around 14kg.

Powered by fixed solar panels on each face, it will carry a flight computer, radio transmitters and receivers, a power-control system, battery packs for when its orbit places it in the Earth's shadow, magnets to passively stabilize the satellite and align it with the Earth's magnetic field, and will be controlled via a dedicated communications ground station at UNSW.

BLUEsat will be placed in an approximately circular orbit at an altitude of around 750km that will take it over the poles. At this altitude, the satellite will travel around the Earth at a rate of around once every 90 minutes.

What Will BLUEsat Do? Once in orbit BLUEsat will be a digital amateur radio satellite, which means that voice and data files can be uploaded to it by any amateur radio operator in the world over which the satellite passes. These same files can be retrieved by other operators in either real time, provided that the sender and receiver both have line-of-sight contact with the satellite, or at some other time when the satellite has travelled around to a different part of the world. This allows voice and data communication to and from remote areas

without internet access.

Success for BLUEsat is not measured solely by the payloads they aim to place in space. Overarching objectives are to show that a group of volunteer students can build satellite; to show that Australia can make a significant contribution to space hardware engineering; to provide students in Australia with hands-on space engineering and project management experience and to provide an extension to the worldwide digital amateur radio service.

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As far as anyone is aware, BLUEsat is believed to be the only university satellite project in the world with an entirely volunteer student team. There are no full-time members and no direct academic supervision. (WIA News)

**

RADIO LAW: US SENATE WANTS TO KNOW WHAT SPECTRUM IS IN USE

The United States Senate Commerce Committee wants Congress to get an inventory of how the nation's spectrum is being used and managed. To accomplish this the committee has passed a measure backed by Communications Subcommittee Chairman to have the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration report to Congress how much spectrum is used in each band and how. This includes what portions require a license for use and what portions allow unlicensed use.

The measure has now been sent to the full Senate though it's unclear if or 166-law-spectrum-congress when it would get on the calendar for a vote. According to several news sources the administration supports the measure as officials consider the lack of available wireless airwaves a barrier to widespread mobile Internet access which is a priority for President Barack Obama. A companion bill was introduced in the House of Representatives two weeks ago as well. (Published news reports)

**

RADIO LAW: RSGB TELLS OFCOM TO STOP LISTING LICENSE DATA ON THE WWW

The Radio Society of Great Britain is not only saying no to publishing a government database of hams on the Internet, its telling telecommunications regulator Ofcom to stop. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, is in Nottingham in the U-K with more:

--

The RSGB has written to Ofcom raising concern at the release, in full, of the detailed amateur radio database on their web site.

This, Ofcom says, follows a number of requests from radio amateurs for the details to be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

After consultation with the Information Commissioners office, the RSGB has learned that Ofcom could be in breach of the Data Protection Act in releasing these personal details, which include the name and address of each individual radio amateur in electronic form, on their website and hence to the wider community.

The RSGB's main concern is the security of the details, which can now be downloaded by any individual, radio amateur or not.

Im Jeramy Boot, G4NJH.

--

But it may be a little to late to put the proverbial genie back in its bottle. Ian Able, G3ZHI, says that has already received a license from Ofcom allowing him to publish the UK Amateur Radio Callbook data. He already has it on line for download at his website. Its in cyberspace at http://www.qsl.net/g3zhi/cb1.html (GB2RS, G3ZHI)

**

RESTRUCTURING: 40 METER EXPANSION DELAYED IN SOME AREAS

Dozens of countries in International Amateur Radio Union Regions 1 and 3 have yet to adopt the 40 meter extension of 7.1 to 7.2MHz in their domestic regulations. In IARU Region 3 only Australia, China, Japan, Korea and New Zealand report having finalised the band extension for their radio amateurs. A similar story of progress is evident in IARU Region 1, with Belarus, France and South Africa being the latest to gain the band extension.

Some are already question if the slow progress sending a wrong message to errant broadcasters? While the vast majority of shortwave broadcasting community have left the band, some have not. Among those persisting is the recently returned Laos National Radio with Cambodian, English, French, Thai and Vietnamese language broadcasts on 7.145 MHz. Its 10kW transmitter has been heard on the west coast of the USA and also into Europe. (Amateur Radio Victoria)

**

RADIO POLITICS: ARRL BOD MEETS IN CONNECTICUT

As we go to air, the ARRL Board of Directors is holding its second meeting of 2009. The location is Windsor, Connecticut, with ARRL divisional Directors, Vice Directors and Board officers in attendance. The meeting was preceded on Thursday, July 16 with meetings of the Administration and Finance Committee and the Programs and Services Committee. More on the outcome of these meetings on next weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO HELPS AVOID FIREWORKS ACCIDENT

Swift action by some northern Indiana hams may have saved lives and prevented serious injuries during a public fire works display. Jack Parker W8ISH has the story.

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A joint training exercise between LaPorte and Porter counties in northwest Indiana ended with a bang last week. According to Ken Osborne-N9ZIP, members of the two RACES groups set up a command post to help pass health and welfare information during the festival and fireworks display in Michigan City. The all day event went smoothly as RACES members relayed information about lost children and minor medical needs to the Incident Command Unit near the park..

That routine day blew up in their faces when the fireworks show started. Gun shots were fired in the large crowd, directly in front of one of the RACES information stations. RACES immediately called in a report of gun shots to the Incident Command post. Park police quickly responded to the area. .

Officials said the crowd of over 10-thousand people began panic as they ran from the gun shots. During the mass confusion, several fights broke out. RACES members immediately relayed the fight locations to Incident Command. As the stampede rushed from the area one pregnant woman fell and was trampled by the crowds. She went into labor. Again, one of the Amateur Radio operators rushed to her aid and called for medical assistance. At last report the expectant mother was doing OK.

Reporting for Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

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Local officials commended the Porter and LaPorte hams on their quick action and on the professional manner in handling multiple incidents. (W8ISH)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO HELPS AVOID RAILWAY ACCIDENT

Ham radio may have helped to avoid a railway accident. One involving a group of Illinois youngsters who decided to try to joy ride on a commuter train.

Paul Streeter, AB9PS, had been attending a meeting of the National Railway Historical Society in Downers Grove, on Friday night, July 10th. As his train home departed the station, his son David, N9JFE, and two other club members who had waited with him noticed that a couple kids had jumped onto the engine. Sensing the urgency in the situation, N9JFE used the emergency provision of the FCC's Amateur Service rules. He tuned his HT to the railroad's frequency to notify the engineer that he had some unwanted kids clinging to the locomotive.

The engineer brought the train to an emergency stop. As soon as the train came to a halt, the crew jumped out when it chased the kids away.

Now here's the kicker. Apparently the kids took refuge right in front of the Downers Grove Police Department after they jumped off the engine. In fact, they were seen sitting on the agency's steps. The engineer then asked the dispatcher to notify the police of what had transpired and of the youngsters where-abouts.

AB9PS says that in his opinion that the situation was definitely life-threatening. He says that the train could have reached 60 mph even though it was a local. At that speed the kids would not have been able to hang on. (KC9RP)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N9LKH repeater of the Milwaukee Area Amateur Radio Society serving Milwaukee Wisconsin.

(5 sec pause here)

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ARNEWSLINE ANNOUNCES 2009 YHOTY WINNER: ANDREW KOENIG, KE5GDB

A 15 year old from Houston, Texas, has been selected as the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. This, based on his dedication to public service as well as working to bring kids, teens and adults into the hobby. Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramovich, NT3V, happens to chair the committee that made the decision and has the story of Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB:

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NT3V: "Andrew, you are the 2009 Young Ham of the Year."

KE5GDB: "You, you, you, you're serious?"

NT3V: "I'm very serious."

KE5GDB: "Wow! Oh, my God. All my friends here at Seabase are going to be really impressed. Oh, my God!"

And, that's how it sounded when we caught up with Andrew Koenig at the Boy Scouts of America Florida Seabase where he had just arrived with members of Troop 848 from Houston for a week of scuba diving adventures.

The Life Scout, who is just shy of his 16th birthday, is working to earn the Eagle rank and was ecstatic to learn he had been chosen for special recognition by Newsline.

Before telling him he had been selected as the Young Ham of the Year, I asked Andrew how he might feel if he were to receive such an award. He said it would be a nice honor to share with his mentors, including his chief Elmer and award nominator - Nick Lance, KC5KBO, who has helped several NASA astronauts earn their ham tickets.

"Young Ham of the Year would probably go in the book of things that I've done in ham radio that they are really impressed with," Andrew said. "It would just mean a lot to me.

"Nick Lance, he hasn't really been pushing me to do anything. A lot of the stuff I discover on my own. But, he's one of the big roles, one of the key aspects in ham radio and it would give him a really good feeling to know that one of his students went on to get youth ham of the year."

Andrew holds a General class license and passed the test for his first ticket back in 2005 while a sixth-grader at the Westbrook Intermediate School in Houston where Lance - who is retiring in August from the Johnson Space Center - teaches an amateur radio license class.

He is the son of Joe and Lauri Koenig of Houston. Joe is KE5JQA and got licensed as a result of Andrew's interest. Andrew also has a younger brother, Kyle.

Among the achievements Andrew has accomplished is helping with an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station contact at the Westbrook Intermediate School.

"I actually helped test a lot of the equipment for the contact, since it was a telebridge contact," Andrew recalled. "The station that was actually contacting the ISS was in California, I believe.

"And, we were in Clear Lake, Texas. So, for some reason the phone patch wasn't working properly. So, I had to actually go into one of the school phones and test that - I think about 15 minutes worth of testing before the contact started. And, finally right on time, we got it going again and everything was working just fine."

The contact with Astronaut Clay Anderson, KD5PLA, was a success - thanks to Andrew.

He also helped facilitate a terrestrial contact between Astronaut Chris Hadfield KC5RNJ/VA3OOG and students at two Canadian schools using an IRLP node he had built and placed in his bedroom closet.

Andrew, who enjoys VHF and UHF operations, tried and tried and was finally successful in making his own contact with the space station using his handheld radios and portable Yagi.

Here is an edited portion of his QSO with Astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT aboard the space station:

KE5GDB: "Kilo Echo 5 Golf Delta Bravo."

NA1SS (KE5AIT): "Kilo Echo 5, this is NA1SS, go."

KE5GDB: "NA1SS, KE5GDB, I'm Echo Lima 29. I'm actually about three miles away from the Johnson Space Center. And, it's pretty cool to talk to you."

NA1SS (KE5AIT): "Wow, we know where the Johnson Space Center is. Yeah, Sandy and I work, live right nearby and then he's visited there often. He's waving right now. And, we hear the weather in Houston is pretty good, over."

KE5GDB: "It's about 60 degrees out right now and I'm outside in my back yard with two handheld radios and I'm having a good time."

Andrew also has participated in training astronauts at the Johnson Space Center on ARISS contacts with schools, conducting simulated QSOs with them playing the role of the school students.

Andrew also has been active with public service events through the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club in suburban Houston where he is immediate past vice president.

Among his achievements, creating his own bicycle mobile setup.

"I had tried putting a handi-talkie on my bike and I wasn't impressed with the results because the rubber duck just didn't get out out as far as I wanted to," Andrew recalled. "A couple months before, I had ordered my first mobile rig the FT-7800.

"And, actually a couple weeks before I decided to put it altogether on the bike. I had bought a brand new gel cell battery. So, I thought, you know, hey I've got this remote that came free with the radio, I've got the battery, I've got an antenna, I got everything I need to make it happen. So, I just mounted it all on the bike with zip ties and I had 50 watts mobile on a bike for VHF and UHF."

That attracted some attention from CQ Magazine which was looking for photo ideas for its 2008 calendar. The magazine dispatched CQ photographer Larry Mulvehill WB2ZPI to Houston and Andrew's bicycle mobile became the calendar photo for September 2008.

Andrew is going into his sophomore year at Clear Lake High School where he is a member of the school's marching band. He is also a member of the Seabrook Citizen's Emergency Response Team. Andrew really is into computers and creating websites and he maintains his own website started when he was in middle school. Check out www.thathamkid.com.

It offers kid-friendly information about ham radio, along with a jokes page and a lot more about Andrew's activities in amateur radio - including his working satellites.

His Elmer and nominator for this award, Nick Lance, KC5KBO, summed it up best when he said: "Andrew has truly been an outstanding student of amateur radio.....He is an inspiration both to his fellow students and to hams of all ages."

We here at Amateur Radio Newsline agree and we're proud to have selected Andrew as our 2009 Young Ham of the Year.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Philadelphia.

--

Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB, will receive his award at the 2009 Huntsville Hamfest slated for the weekend of August 15th and 16th at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville, Alabama. We hope to see many of you there. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: HAMVENTION 2010 ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP

Lee Boeckerman, W8LFB, has been named General Chairman for the 2010 Dayton Hamvention with Mike Kalter, W8CI, to serve as assistant general chairman. Both have extensive Dayton Hamvention experience. Boeckerman served as assistant general chairman in 2009 and Kalter was on the administrative staff and handled spokesperson duties. Both also have a variety of experience with previous Hamvention's.

Boeckerman is reportedly now assembling his team of Chairmen for the various committees needed to plan and execute next years outing. Many experienced volunteers from 2009 are returning for another year. Hamvention 2010 scheduled for May 14th to the 16th at Hara Arena in the Dayton suburb of Trotwood, Ohio. (Dayton Hamvention¿½)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: NEW SECTION MANAGER APPOINTED IN OHIO

Frank Piper, KI8GW, has been appointed Section Manager of the ARRL Ohio Section. Before being selected as the new S-M, Piper held a number of ARES leadership positions including that of Emergency Coordinator from 2002 to 2003 and then as District Emergency Coordinator from 2003 to 2006. He was promoted to Section Emergency Coordinator, serving in that position until 2008. Piper has also served as an Official Emergency Station in the ARRL Field Organization since 1997. He will serve the balance of the term of the late Joe Phillips, K8QOE, who passed away on June 20th. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VK HAM MAKES QUEENS BIRTHDAY HONORS LIST

Syd Griffith VK2AHF has been recognized in the Queen's Birthday honors list. Griffith was awarded the Public Service medal for his outstanding public service, particularly in innovative and sustained contribution to the enhancement and improvement of the technical capabilities of New South Wales Police. He will be presented with his medal by the Governor General later in the year. (WIA News)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: DX'ER K4UEE IN KENYA ON HUMANITERIAN MISSION

Bob Allphin, K4UEE, spent the past week in Kenya doing a short term mission work that included ham radio. Before his departure Alperin told the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter that he was traveling to a village located about 3 to 4 hours north of Nairobi where he would be involved in several different projects including production of a video and demonstrating amateur radio in the local high school.

By way of background, Bob Allphin, K4UEE, has visited ninety-five DXCC entities and operated from fifty-two. He has participated in twenty eight DXpeditions, including seven from "top 10" DXCC entities. Alperin is also an active contester and has participated in thirty-three contest DXpeditions. Six of these efforts resulted in new World Records.

While Bob had some gear with him on this trip, his main emphasis was the humanitarian service projects he traveled half way around the world to assist in. See: http://www.410bridge.org for more information. (OPDX)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: HRK SAN DIEGO MANAGER TOM MCDUFFIE KM6K - S.K.

Tom McDuffie, KM6K, the manager of Ham Radio Outlet's San Diego store became a Silent Key on Monday, July 13th. This, according to Chip Margelli, K7JA, who also passed along a bulletin posted to the San Diego Amateur Repeater Association by Tom's wife Susan.

In her note she said that her husband took ill on Sunday the 12th while driving on State Route 52. He was able to pull to the side of the road before he lost consciousness. The California Highway Patrol found him in his locked vehicle a few hours later. They had to break a window to enter and get Tom out and transport him to Sharp Hospital in San Diego. He was diagnosed as having suffered a stroke and succumb the following morning.

At airtime memorial services for Tom McDuffie, KM6K, have not been announced. (K7JA)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: LAPTOPS AND NOTEBOOKS REPLACING DESK PC'S

The age of the desktop PC appears to be over. This as its more portable cousins, the laptop and notebook surge ahead with consumers clamoring for light-weight computers in funky designs for use at home, in cafes and on the heir to work.

Not a single desktop model figured on online shopping portal Amazon.com's top 10 selling PC and hardware list the weekend before Christmas 2008. However seven laptop models made the list.

Those who watch trends in the computer industry say that this is yet another sign that the former dominance of desktop PCs is fading. The reason being that advances in wireless technology and lower prices make laptops and notebooks the preferred option for millions of PC users around the world. (Science OnLine)

**

WORLDBEAT: CROSS EUROPE HAM TREK

MM0DFV has started out on a 7000km mobile journey from Scotland through France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russian, Kazakhstan and back. He has his HF gear with him and operating as he goes. His main mode of operation will be PSK and he plans to have different QSL cards for each new stop. The trip should last until August 10th. QSL as directed by MM0DFV. (GB2RS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUITSAT-2 ENGINEERING CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

A follow up to last weekends meeting in Phoeniix, Arizona, to work on the engineering aspects of the SuitSat-2 or whatever the project will be renamed now that the space suit aspect of SuitSat-2 is gone.

According to System Engineer, Gould Smith, WA4SXM, progress was occurring on several fronts. Smitth says that the command receiver boards were assembled and ready for testing and were integrated for the first time. The team was able to report that the receiver is now providing good input to the transponder and as a result the transponder became operational and produced CW, FM and BPSK signals.

Also at the meeting issues regarding housing SuitSat-2 have began being addressed. This, to replace the spacesuit jettisoned into space from the International Space Station that was supposed to carry SuitSat-2. One that cab survive the deep cold of space. (ANS)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: TWITTEREING THE ISS VISIBLE PASSES

Two Dutch journalists have built a established a Twitter page to let people know when a visible ISS pass is coming. To use it, go to twitter.com/twisst. To which we will add that it appears that Twitter is becoming an all but indispensable tool to anyone involved in ham radio in space. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: COMMEMORATING THE FIRST MANNED LUNAR LANDING

AMSAT-North America will mark the 40th anniversary of the first manned lunar landing with a special event on the AO-51 ham satellite. On Monday, July 20th and into early July 21st UTC, AO-51 will transmit a special message commemorating the event during evening passes. The message will be transmitted on the 435.300 MHz FM downlink. A special AO-51 QSL will be available to ground stations who copy the message on the downlink.

Also, use of the call VE3MOON has approved by Industry Canada for use in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first moon landing. It through the 27 of July. QSL requests go too VE3OIJ, direct, via the bureau or using eQSL. (ANS)

**

ON THE AIR: RAMSEY ISLAND WHERE THE BIRDS ARE

On the air, members of Great Britain's Strumblehead DX and Contest Group have now obtained permission from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to activate Ramsey Island. Its located off the West Wales coast and the group will be active from 1800 UTD on July 24th through 1400UTC on July 27th using the club callsign MC0SHL. Their activity will be on all bands from 80 to 10 meters operating only on SSB. (OPDX)

**

ON THE AIR: 13 COLONIES SE-HUGE SUCCESS!

And word that the recent 13 Original Colonies event has been deemed a major success. This, with over10,000 QSO's made and every continent contacted.

Ken Villone, KU2US is the 13 Original Colonies Awards Manager. He says that a large amount of interest in this event was generated in the United Kingdom. As a result the 2010 outing will include two U K stations representing the "Mother Country". This will open up all of the Europe to the on the air celebration.

More information about the 13 Original Colonies events is at the KU2US listing on QRZ.com (E-mail)

**

DX

In DX, JA7QVI needs your help to complete a rather ambitious ham radio project. Tak says that he will be calling CQ on the 50 MHz, 6 meter band for the rest of July from 2200 to 0000 UTC Monday through Friday and 2200 to 0200 UTC on Saturday and Sunday. This in the hope of becoming the first mainland Japan station to achieve the ARRL's Worked All States award. Tak adds he really needs to make contact with hams

in New Jersey and Louisiana to qualify. Please listen out for him and help him to achieve this long sought after goal.

F5LMJ, will be in Liechtenstein through July 24th operating portable HB0. His modes will be CW and digital during his evening and early morning hours. QSL via F5LMJ via the bureau or electronically via Logbook to the World.

VE3ZIK will once again be active portable as 9A from Bilice, Croatia through August 3rd. Listen for him on the HF bands using CW, SSB and some digital modes. QSL via DO7ZZ, direct or by the bureau. Logs will be uploaded to eQSL and Logbook to the World.

SV1EJD will be on the air portable SV8 from Lesvos in the North Aegean Islands through the 22nd of July. QSL via his home call, either direct or via the bureau.

YC0IEM, will be active from Bali through July 27th. QSL via IZ8CCW.

Lastly, MM0DFV has started out on a 7000km mobile journey from Scotland through France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russian, Kazakhstan and back. He has his HF gear with him and operating as he goes. His main mode of operation will be PSK and he plans to have different QSL cards for each new stop. The trip should last until August 10th. QSL as directed by MM0DFV.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE BOSTON T-HUNT

And finally this week, an on-foot hidden transmitter hunt in Boston has drawn competitors from around the world. Newsline's Joe Moell, K0OV, has the outcome:

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Every odd-numbered year, the three regions of the International Amateur Radio Union, the IARU, plan world-class on-foot hidden transmitter hunts and they invite the hams of the world to attend. Region 2, which encompasses all of North and South America, had its championships in Boston on the first weekend of June. It was combined with USA's annual national championships and was hosted by Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI. He is one of USA's best at the sport, which is also called radio-orienteering and ARDF.

With help from the New England Orienteering Club, Vadim set out two challenging courses in the 7000-acre Blue Hills Reservation south of Boston, one course on two-meters and the other on 80 meters. These transmitter hunts drew hams from all over the USA plus eight other nations. Some of those countries, such as Ukraine and Russia, have training programs that have developed the world's best radio-orienteers over the years, so it's no surprise that the best performances were

from those nations.

But the stateside competitors, 44 per cent of whom were first-timers, did very well themselves. For example, in the three categories for women, USA captured all but one of the gold medals. Dick Arnett WB4SUV and Bob Cooley KF6VSE took gold in the category for men over age 60. And former Newsline Young Ham of the Year Jay Thompson W6JAY was best in the USA on two meters in the category for men in their 20s and 30s.

For complete results and photos of the championships in Boston, point your Web browser to homingin.com. That's homingin -- as one word -- homingin.com. USA's best on-foot foxhunters not only received medals, but they are on track to be part of our country's team for the World Championships in Croatia next year.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Joe Moell K0OV.

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Needless to say, a good time was had by all. (K0OV)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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322. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 28 (Friday, July 17, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-17 20:22:42 UTC
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Source record: 1932
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 28
July 17, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + New Vice Directors Visit HQ in Advance of Board Meeting
* + HR 2160 Gains More Support in Congress
* + WRC-11 Is Now WRC-12
* + Companion Bill to Senate Radio Spectrum Inventory Act Introduced in House

* + Space Shuttle Endeavour on Its Way to ISS with Hams on Board
* + ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
*ï¿½ Solar Update
*ï¿½ IN BRIEF:
ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ This Week on the Radio
ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ + W1AW to Add New Digital Modes to Transmission Schedule
ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ + AMSAT to Mark First Lunar Landing
ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ï¿½ Jim Mullin, W8KKK (SK)

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
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<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> NEW VICE DIRECTORS VISIT HQ IN ADVANCE OF BOARD MEETING

Just prior to the ARRL Board of Directors 2009 Second Meeting
<http://www.arrl.org/announce/board.html>, three newly appointed Vice
Directors made their way to Newington for a day of orientation. Pacific
Division Vice Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, Southeastern Division Vice
Director Jeff Beals, WA4AW, and West Gulf Division Vice Director John
Thomason, WB5SYT, came to learn the "ins and outs" of the ARRL Board and ARRL
Headquarters operation. The 2009 Second Meeting is scheduled for July 17-18
in Windsor, Connecticut.
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According to ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, "The new Board members came to Newington to learn not only how the Board functions, but to see what each department does and how it interacts with and serves both Amateur Radio and ARRL members, through our five pillars: Public Service, Advocacy, Education, Technology and Membership. I am pleased they came to see how we support Amateur Radio each and every day here at ARRL HQ."

One of the highlights of the group's visit to Headquarters was a tour of the Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. Dave Patton, NN1N, explained the function of the department and its staff. "We showed them how we support Amateur Radio and our members through our Field Organization, Ham Aid Program, emergency communications support, operating events and awards," Patton said.

Beals, the former Southern Florida Assistant Section Manager, was appointed Vice Director upon the death of then-Vice Director Sandy Donahue, W4RU <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/04/10865/?nc=1>. "I haven't been to Headquarters in about 15 years -- I'm just amazed at how much things have changed," he said. "It never ceases to amaze me how much we give our members for their membership dollars. What's available to them, the services, the functions we perform for the members, it's just incredible. I think if more hams out there could see what we do here, we'd double our membership in about 5 minutes."

Thomason, the former Oklahoma Section Manager, was appointed Vice Director <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/24/10586/?nc=1> when then-Director Coy Day, N5OK, resigned and David Woolweaver, K5RAV, moved up to Director from Vice Director <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/20/10574/?nc=1>. "It's been quite a day -- it's been long, but it's been good," he said. "We have had the good fortune to see so many wonderful League staffers and to get together to help plan for the future. Departments here at Headquarters were able to share some of the things they have done on behalf of our members. It has definitely been a good day and it will only get better."

Tiemstra, the former Section Emergency Coordinator in the East Bay Section, was appointed to his position in June after then-Vice Director Andy Oppel, N6AJO, submitted his resignation <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/16/10889/?nc=1>. "When we got to Headquarters, we found that we had a full day planned," he said. "We saw all aspects of the Headquarters operation and it is quite an impressive operation -- much larger and much more complicated than I expected. I am really looking forward to the Board meeting on Friday. I am so fascinated by all the things that the League is doing these days. I think that it will be a tremendous learning experience and something I will probably never forget."

A report on the July meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be available on the ARRL Web site and in The ARRL Letter.

==> HR 2160 GAINS MORE SUPPORT IN CONGRESS

This week, four more Congressmen -- John Boozman (R-AR-3), Bob Filner (D-CA-51), Dennis Moore (D-KS-3) and David Wu (D-OR-1) -- pledged their support for HR 2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement

Act of 2009 <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.2160:>. This brings the total number of cosponsors to 18.

Introduced by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18) in April <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>, if passed, HR 2160 would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

* Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts.
* Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.
* Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
* Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).
* Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

"HR 2160 presents the Amateur Radio Service with a unique opportunity -- but also carries with it the important responsibility of making your voice heard," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "HR 2160 stands as the first step in trying to address the long standing problem of extending the protections afforded Amateur Radio operators under PRB-1 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/PRB-1_Pkg/prb-1.pdf>to deed restrictions and covenants. To be clear, passing HR 2160 is not going to achieve that goal right away. But it will help lay the ground work by assessing the impact such restrictions have on our ability to train for and respond to disasters and other emergencies."

HR 2160 is also sponsored by W. Todd Akin (R-MO-2), Michael Arcuri (D-NY-24), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD-6), Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Bart Gordon (D-TN-6), Brett Guthrie (R-KY-2), Michael Honda (D-CA-15), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-9), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI-11), Charlie Melancon (D-LA-3), Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2) and Peter Welch (D-VT).

Check the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818> for information on how to encourage your Congressional representative to sponsor HR 2160.

==> WRC-11 IS NOW WRC-12

The ITU Council, the 46-nation administrative oversight body of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), has agreed to move the next World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC) to 2012. Originally scheduled for October 24-November 18, 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Council has proposed January 23-February 17 as the new dates <http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-r/oth/0C/04/R0C040000030001PDFE.pdf>.

According to ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, the full ITU membership is now being consulted on the dates; responses are due by August 3. "The ITU Council had previously proposed dates for fall 2011, but various scheduling conflicts and the lack of available facilities during some weeks made this schedule impractical," he said.

Held approximately every three years, these periodic conferences of the Member States of the ITU consider allocations to the various radio services -- including the Amateur Radio Service -- and evaluate what new technologies and applications should be addressed by future conferences.

The agenda for WRC-12, developed by the delegates at the last WRC in Geneva in 2007 (WRC-07), was formally adopted by the ITU Council in 2008. There are 25 agenda items addressing potential new or revised spectrum allocations to existing services. Of most interest to amateurs is agenda item 1.23, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services."

"This agenda item is the highest item on my long term priority list," said Price. "We are fortunate that this upcoming WRC presents an opportunity for a new secondary allocation in the medium waves. While the outcome is far from certain, our experience in other bands -- most notably 30 meters -- indicates Amateur Radio's compatibility with certain other services as a secondary user."

Price said that some WRCs have posed great challenges for Amateur Radio, with blocks of spectrum potentially at risk. "This was the case at WRC-03 and WRC-07, which posed a very real potential reallocation of portions of the 40 meter band in Region 2 to HF broadcasting," he said. "The agenda for WRC-12 does not pose any threats to Amateur Radio as clear or as overt as those faced in prior years." Price and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, are monitoring developments on a number of other agenda items that could affect Amateur Radio if they take unanticipated turns,

including:

* Agenda item 1.14, considering requirements for and implementation of the radiolocation service (radar) between 30-300 MHz.
* Agenda item 1.15, considering possible allocations between 3-50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
* Agenda item 1.19, considering regulatory measures to enable software-defined and cognitive radio systems.
* Agenda item 1.22, examining the effect of emissions from short-range devices.

"Oceanographic radar is perhaps our biggest defensive issue," Price said. "Fortunately, its proponents have acknowledged that sharing with Amateur Radio would be problematic."

==> COMPANION BILL TO SENATE RADIO SPECTRUM INVENTORY ACT INTRODUCED IN HOUSE

In March, Senator John Kerry (D-MA) introduced the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act (S 649) <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.649:> in the Senate <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/03/25/10725/>. Earlier this month, that bill passed the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Last week, Representative Henry Waxman (CA-30) introduced a companion bill -- HR 3125 -- in the House of Representatives <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.3125.IH:>; the bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The bills, if passed, would mandate an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Federal Communications Commission. The Senate version calls for an inventory of frequencies between 300 MHz-3.5 GHz managed by the two agencies, while the House bill would mandate an inventory of 225 MHz-10 GHz.

S 649
Senate Bill 649 states that the NTIA and the FCC would be required to inventory the spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. Both agencies would need to prepare a report listing the licenses or government user assigned in the band, the total spectrum allocation, by band, of each licensee or government user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the number of intentional radiators and end-user intentional radiators that have been deployed in the band with each license or government user.

Additionally, if the information is applicable, the report would be required to show the type of intentional radiators operating in the band, the type of unlicensed intentional radiators authorized to operate in the band, contour maps that illustrate signal coverage and strength and the approximate geo-location of base stations or fixed transmitters. The report would then be sent to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The bill also mandates that both agencies create a centralized portal or Web site that lists each agency's band inventories. This information would then be made available to the public via an Internet-accessible Web site. Both

agencies would also be required to make all necessary efforts to maintain and update the inventory information "in near real-time fashion and whenever there is a transfer or auction of licenses or change in allocation or assignment."

"Our public airwaves belong to the American people, and we need to make certain we are putting them to good use in the best interests of those citizens," Senator Kerry said when he introduced the bill in March. "Last year's 700 MHz auction resulted in $20 billion for the treasury and will create greater opportunity and choice for consumers and businesses that need broadband service. We also took a great step forward when the FCC established a way for unlicensed devices to operate in white spaces. These two initiatives are evidence of how valuable spectrum is and how it serves as fertile grounds for innovation. We need to make sure we're making as much of it available to innovators and consumers as possible."

HR 3125
Like S 649, HR 3125 calls for the NTIA and the FCC to issue a report on the inventory of spectrum no later than 180 days after the bill becomes law; after the initial survey, follow-ups would be required every two years. The House bill goes a bit further than S 634, however, calling for the two agencies to work with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) <http://www.ostp.gov/>; this office advises the President on the effects of science and technology on domestic and international affairs.

The agency reports called for in HR 3125 would include the same information called for in the Senate version. Like the Senate bill, the House bill calls for the reports to be made available on the Internet and update the reports as needed. Both bills include an exemption for licensees or users if they can demonstrate that disclosure would be harmful to national security.

"The [bill] represents a significant step in making available more spectrum for commercial and wireless services. The more efficient use of our nation's airwaves will increase innovation for wireless products and services and improve the connectivity of the American people," said bill cosponsor Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA-9). "As more people use wireless devices and as advanced applications require higher data rates over time, additional spectrum will be needed to accommodate growth. Wireless technologies can also play a critical role in bringing broadband to more consumers, particularly in rural areas."

S 649 is co-sponsored by Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Mark Pryor (D-AR), Olympia Snowe (R-ME), John Thune (R-SD), Mark Warner (D-VA) and Roger Wicker (R-MS).

HR 3125 already has 17 cosponsors: Joe Barton (R-TX-6), Rick Boucher (D-VA-9), Steve Buyer (R-IN-4), Kathy Castor (D-FL-11), John Dingell (D-MI-15), Michael Doyle (D-PA-14), Anna Eshoo (D-CA-14), Bart Gordon (D-TN-6), Jay Inslee (D-WA-1), Edward Markey (D-MA-7), Doris Matsui (D-CA-5), Jerry McNerney (D-CA-11), Zachary Space (D-OH 18), Cliff Stearns (R-FL-6), Bart Stupak (D-MI-1), Fred Upton (R-MI-6) and Peter Welch (D-VT). Gordon and Welch are also cosponsors of HR 2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency

Communications Enhancement Act of 2009
<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

==> SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOUR ON ITS WAY TO ISS WITH HAMS ON BOARD

After lightning strikes and thunderstorms delayed the launch of the space shuttle Endeavour (STS 127) this past weekend, the spacecraft launched into space at 6:03 PM on Wednesday, July 15. Endeavour's 16 day mission to the International Space Station (ISS)
<http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html> will feature five planned spacewalks and complete the construction of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's Kibo laboratory. Astronauts will attach a platform to the outside of the Japanese module that will allow experiments to be exposed to space
<http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/362898main_STS127%20Mission%20Summary%20v4.pdf>.

Endeavour carries a crew of seven: Mark Polansky is commander and Douglas Hurley is the pilot. Mission specialists are Christopher Cassidy, Thomas Marshburn, KE5HOC, David Wolf, KC5VPF, and Julie Payette, a Canadian Space Agency astronaut. The mission will deliver Timothy Kopra, KE5UDN, to the ISS as a flight engineer and science officer and return Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata, KC5ZTA, to Earth. Hurley, Cassidy, Marshburn and Kopra will be making their first trips to space.

When Kopra arrives, there will six astronauts on board the ISS -- all but one are licensed radio amateurs: Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT; Flight Engineer Michael Barratt, KD5MIJ; Flight Engineer Frank DeWinne, ON1DWN; Flight Engineer Robert Thirsk, VA3CSA, and Flight Engineer Roman Romanenko.

While on the ISS, Kopra will help conduct scientific experiments on human physiology. "We're going to look at all the different components that correspond to the human body and the effect that microgravity has on [astronauts]," he said in a NASA pre-flight interview
<http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/expeditions/expedition20/kopra_interview.html>. "It's very critical because, if we're going to spend time on the moon, which has less gravity than the Earth, or transporting to Mars, which could be a very long trip and then time on Mars, we need to understand with a lot of detail what those effects will be. So we'll be looking at the cardiovascular system, neurological system, vestibular system and we'll also be looking at some of the behavioral aspects of living in space. What happens to your sleep, for example: Can you sleep soundly, because over time you definitely need to have sound sleep to be an effective crew member? Those are some of the examples of the things we'
ll be looking at that correspond to the human physiology side."

Kopra said he expects to "have a lot of fun" while on board the ISS: "I just spoke with the [current ISS] crew members on board recently, and after they had only been there for a couple weeks, you could tell that they're just real excited about all the work that they do on board. It's just like you talk to a kid about what they would like to do on space station, they might tell you, 'Hey, I want to float around, I want to look out the window.' You know, I

intend to do a lot of both of those just as my crew members like to do."

Kopra, a 1985 graduate of West Point and a colonel in the US Army, was assigned to NASA at the Johnson Space Center in September 1998 as a vehicle integration test engineer. In this position, he primarily served as an engineering liaison for space shuttle launch operations and ISS hardware testing. He was actively involved in the contractor tests of the Extravehicular Activity (EVA) interfaces for each of the space station truss segments.

Selected as an astronaut in July 2000, Kopra began his initial training the following month. He completed two years of intensive space shuttle, space station and T-38 flight training. He then served in the Space Station Branch of the Astronaut Office where his primary focus involved the testing of crew interfaces for two ISS pressurized modules, as well as the implementation of support computers and operational Local Area Network on ISS. After completing a Russian language immersion course in Moscow, Kopra began training for a long duration space flight mission in July 2005. Since then, he has completed training at each of the international partner training sites and served as a backup crewmember to Expeditions 16 and 17.

Kopra will return to Earth on space shuttle Discovery (STS 128), due to launch this August. That mission will bring mission specialist Nicole Stott, KE5GJN, to the ISS. Discovery will carry the Leonardo Multi-Purpose Logistics Module containing life support racks and science racks, as well as the Lightweight Multi-Purpose Experiment Support Structure Carrier.ï¿½ -- Information provided by NASA

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News and the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Glorious with the Sun's returning march" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We saw a nice run of eight days with a large sunspot, but none have emerged in the six days since. Unlike other recent spots, this one did not appear just for one or two days and then vanish. Sunspot numbers for July 9-15 were

15, 13, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 4. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.1, 67.8, 68.2, 68, 67.2, 66.6 and 66.5 with a mean of 67.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 6, 7, 4, 5, 10, 8 and 5 with a mean of 6.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 7, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 3 with a mean of 4.7. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for July 17-20, unsettled July 21, quiet to unsettled July 22 and back to quiet on July 23. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation B ulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "Sunrise on the Hills" <http://www.readbookonline.net/readOnLine/3237/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, an NCCC Sprint Ladder is on July 17. The North American QSO Party (RTTY), theï¿½ DMC RTTY Contest and the CQ Worldwide VHF Contest are July 18-19. The CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush is July 19. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is July 20 and the SKCC Sprint is July 22. Next week, another NCCC Sprint Ladder is on July 245 and the RSGB IOTA Contest is July 25-26. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, July 26, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, August 7, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feed
back. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* W1AW to Add New Digital Modes to Transmission Schedule: Effective August 17, W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, will replace its AMTOR and

ASCII transmissions with PSK31 and MFSK16, respectively. RTTY (Baudot) will continue to be the first digital mode used in the transmission schedule. The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions will remain the same. "All regular 6 PM and 9 PM (Eastern Time) digital transmissions will begin with RTTY," said W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. "PSK31 and MFSK16 will be sent as time allows. The Tuesday and Friday Keplerian data bulletins will be sent using RTTY and PSK31." The W1AW operating schedule -- complete with times and frequencies -- can be found on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>.

* AMSAT to Mark First Lunar Landing: AMSAT-NA <http://www.amsat.org> will mark the 40th anniversary of the first manned lunar landing with a special event on AO-51 <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/>. AO-51 will transmit a message commemorating the event Monday, July 20 during evening passes in the US and Europe. The message will be transmitted on the 435.300 MHz FM downlink and will contain a Robot 36 SSTV image as well as a voice message. A special AO-51 QSL will be available to those who copy the downlink. Send QSL requests marked "Apollo 11" with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to AMSAT, 850 Sligo Ave, Ste 600, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

* Jim Mullin, W8KKK (SK): Jim Mullin, W8KKK, of Concord Township, Ohio, fell to his death from atop his 100 foot tower on June 6, reports Frank "Fritz" Hemrich, K8WLF, also of Concord Township. According to a post Hemrich made on QRZ.com, Mullin, 69, was in the process of dismantling his tower and antennas when his safety belt "parted at one of the seams and just let go." Hemrich recounted that Mullin had already been up on the tower twice that day: "It appears as if he was on his third trip up to re-position his gin pole to start taking apart and down the tower sections. His ground assistant had just finished taking some pictures of the tower and was putting his camera back in his car. As he turned away from the car he heard Jim hit the ground." A service for Mullin was held June 11.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org

==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call
860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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323. AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE SPECIAL BULLETIN - WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD - S.K.

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-18 09:44:40 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090718024146.01685b90@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1933
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE SPECIAL BULLETIN - WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD - S.K.

Shortly after our current newscast #1666 went to air we learned of the passing of broadcast and ham radio legend, Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD. We have prepared a special 14 minute audio only tribute to Walter Cronkite hosted by Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, that you can download and play from our website at www.arnewsline.org. Simply scroll down to "Special Reports" and click on the word "HERE" on the line that reads "Click HERE to download our 14 minute tribute to broadcast legend Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD." It is an MP3 file and will play in most media players.

Thank you, Amateur Radio Newsline

324. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-22 06:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1248242400@panix.com>
Source record: 1934
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

325. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-22 06:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1248242701@panix.com>
Source record: 1935
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

326. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1667 - July 24 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-24 08:41:18 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090724013708.01688ae0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1936
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1667 - July 24 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, with some words of thank you to our listeners, heres our Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ:

--

In the month of August last year we heard from regular contributors Benton Bonney, W4PE of Orlando; Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH; William Walters, WA2IBM in San Jose; Stephen Perluss and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association in Mission Viejo.

Also the Albemarle ARC in Earlysville, VA; the Seqouia Amateur Radio Group, N6KRV in Lake Isabella, CA; Leo Halog, KR6EG in San Francisco; The Calveras Amateur Radio Society, N6FRG in Angels Camp; John Rice, KE6YFV in San Pedro and our good friends David, W6AQ & Alice Bell W6QLT in LA.

Via PayPal there was Greg Danes of Alexandria, VA and the 147.590 Echolink Mills Computer & Electronics- W3YNI in Irwin, PA. Also, Warren Anderson- Plymouth, MN; Jim Sellars- Springfield, MO and the SW Missouri Regional Skywarn Spotters; Andrew Hansis- K7FED in Henderson, NV; Tom Stanley- KB7VOO in Bonney Lake, WA; Douglas Gilbert- WA6LXB of West Hills, CA.

It costs almost $1000 a month to gather the news and put these newscasts on the air. Please do what you can to keep these newscasts coming by logging onto our website and going to our PayPal secure contribution link, or contacting us at our Arcadia support fund address given at the end of this newscast. If you choose the easy PayPal route, be sure to include your callsign in the Notes section, so that we can say it on the air.

For now, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and thank you.

--

Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1667 with a release date of Friday, July 24th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio says goodbye to a great American legend as Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, passes from the scene. Also, the World Administrative Radio Conference is delayed until 2012, the ARRL meets in Connecticut, DX goes to Twitter and RF ID tags hit the London subway. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1667 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: WALTER CRONKITE KB2GSD - SK

The man credited with setting the "gold standard" in broadcast journalism has passed away. CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who once held the title of ''Most Trusted Man in America,'' has passed away. Cronkite died with his family at his bedside on Friday, July 17 after at age 92.

Walter Cronkite became a ham for a slightly different reason than most of us. He was a sailor and loved to be on the water in the boat that he owned. He was also very safety conscious and when some of his colleagues at CBS suggested that he put ham radio gear on board his vessel, he thought it would be a good idea. Only he needed a ham ticket to go with it. Enter two then CBS hams, Rich Moseson, W2VU and Steve Mendelson, W2ML. Back then they were N2BFG and WA2DHF respectively. Rich Moseson tells us how he got drafted as one of the two volunteer examiners that would give Walter Cronkite for his Novice exam:

--

Rich Moseson, W2VU: "I remember my boss at the time, Joel Heller, WA2FFI, who was an Executive Producer at CBS News calling me into his office one day. Steve Mendelsohn and Walter Cronkite were sitting there and he (Heller) said that Mr. Cronkite has decided to get his ham license and wants to take his test. Steve's going to do (supervise) the written test for the Novice and would you be willing to give him the code test. And of coarse I said "yes."" --

Walter Cronkite was soon KB2GSD and while he was rarely on the air, he was keenly aware of the hobby and its importance. And on two occasion when approached by film maker Dave Bell, W6AQ, he gladly lent his voice and image to a pair of ham radio video's. The second of these was made in 2005 and was called "The ARRL Goes To Washington." It was inspired by then ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who wanted something to rally ham radio to the danger of Broadband Over Powerline or BPL internet access and the devastating effect it would have on ham radio High Frequency operations. Haynie turned to Dave Bell and his ham radio production team for assistance. Bell once again approached KB2GSD to host the presentation. And with a script written by the late Alan Kaul, W6RCL, Walter Cronkite lent his voice and his image to the fight to restrain BPL

--

Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, audio from The ARRL Goes To Washington: "The Federal Communications Commission is the agency that issues ham radio licenses and regulates amateur radio. Congress created the FCC an like a mindful parent it occasionally overrules the agency, a fact of which Jim Haynie is well aware. Thats important because at this exact moment

the FCC is pushing a controversial Internet access scheme caulked Broadband Over Powerline or BPL."

--

According to Dave Bell, having Walter Cronkite as host of the ARRL Goes To Washington is what made the video the effective anti BPL tool that it was:

--

Dave Bell, W6AQ: "Getting Walter to host a film about BPL gave it weight that no other person in the entire country could give it. When a Congressman or an executive in Washington of any kind gets a DVD and it says '&narrated by Walter Cronkite' that means its true. And I do not think that film would have been nearly as effective with anybody else narrating it."

--

There have been many accolades written and voiced with the passing of Walter Cronkite. One of the most poignant are the words of FCC Commissioner Michael Copps. He said and we quote:

"One of my fondest memories during my time at the FCC will always be the opportunity I had to get to know the legendary Walter Cronkite. I was privileged to visit with Walter on several occasions and to imbibe some of the unmatchable feel he had for journalism and its crucial role in sustaining a healthy and vibrant democratic dialogue.

On one occasion, in 2007, we shared a platform at a Columbia University forum on the future of the media. By then, Walter had been speaking out for a number of years about excessive media consolidation and the declining resources that were going into journalismparticularly investigative journalism. He ended his remarks this way:

""America is the most prosperous and powerful nation in perhaps the history of the world. We can certainly afford to sustain a media system of which we can be proud.""

I will miss this good and wise man. And the country will miss his sage counsel as we finally begin to grapple with the crisis in journalism that he saw coming long ago. We will best honor Walter Cronkite's memory by tackling this issue with the urgency it deserves.

To which we will add that we too will all miss the man the country came to know as Uncle Walter and ham radio operators came to know as KB2GSD. He was truly an American treasure and we in ham radio were lucky to have him as one of us.

As an aside, Amateur Radio Newsline has prepared a 14 minute audio tribute to Walter Cronkite hosted by Mark Abramowicz, NT3V. Its at our website under Special Reports. Simply scroll down the page and left click to download and save it to your computer. Its our small way of

saying farewell to the man America trusted the most and who hams knew by the call letters KB2GSD. (ARNewsaline")

**

THE BPL FIGHT: FCC ISSUES NEW NPRM ON BPL

Speaking about BPL, the Federal Communications Commission of the United States has finally issued new proposed regulation for Broadband over Powerline Internet access. In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking the FCC is seeking comment on the power levels that should be permitted for BPL systems so they don't cause interference with other services.

The new proposal is the result of litigation won by the ARRL last year regarding new requirements and measurement guidelines for Access Broadband over Power Line Systems. So far the ARRL is yet to make known its response to the new proposal. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WC8OH repeater serving Kettering, Ohio.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO POLITICS: WRC 11 BECOMES WRC 12

WRC-11 Is Now WRC-12. This, as the 46-nation ITU Council which is the administrative oversight body of the International Telecommunication Union agrees to move the next World Radiocommunication Conference to 2012.

Originally scheduled for October 24th to November 18th, 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Council has proposed January 23rd to February 17th as the new dates. According to ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, the full ITU membership is now being consulted on the change and responses are due by August 3.

According to Price, the ITU Council had previously proposed dates for fall 2011, but various scheduling conflicts and the lack of available facilities during some weeks made this schedule impractical. (ITU)

**

WITH THE ARRL: BOARD MEETING RESULTS IN BRIEF

The ARRL Board of Directors held its Second Meeting of 2009 in Windsor, Connecticut on July 17th and 18th. According to the League, most of Saturday was devoted to reviewing and revising the ARRL Strategic Plan that was adopted in October 2006.

During the two day gathering the Board considered and acted on a number of organizational, regulatory and operating issues, including the formation of an ad hoc committee to study and prepare guidelines to identify inappropriate use of Amateur Radio. Also looked at was updating of the terms of reference of the Volunteer Consulting Engineer Program; establishing of an Emergency Liaison Station appointment at the national level to link ARRL Headquarters to affected areas during disasters; the formation of a study committee to conduct research and consider developing a plan for narrow-band channel spacing in the VHF and UHF bands.

Several other items were also acted upon. These include the creation of the George Hart Distinguished Service Award to be given for exemplary service in the ARRL Field Organization, and updating the terms of reference for the Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award. The Board also conferred several awards on deserving nominees. (ARRL)

**

WITH THE ARRL: W1AW BULLETINS TO ADD DIGITAL

Still with news from the League, word that its W1AW bulletin station will add new digital modes to its transmitting schedule in mid-August. This following a survey of listeners who say that they want the digital transmissions.

On August 17th W1AW will replace its AMTOR and ASCII transmissions with PSK31 and MFSK16, respectively. RTTY will continue to be the first digital mode used in the transmission schedule. The frequencies used by W1AW for all its digital transmissions will remain the same.

The W1AW operating schedule complete with times and frequencies can be found on the ARRLWeb page . at http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked. (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: THALES INTRODUCES SDR LMR PORTABLE

The US Department of Homeland Security has picked 14 groups from across the country to pilot an ambitious Multi-Band Radio project. This in an attempt to permit all responding units to talk with one another and with incident command no matter what frequency or mode of communication they use. Amateur Radio Newslines's Jeff Clark, K8JAC, tells us about the radio that they will be testing:

--

Currently radios only operate within a specific frequency band. As a result responders are often unable to communicate with other agencies and their support units that operate in different radio frequencies. Having a fully interoperable portable that is comparable to today's single band sets was the reason that the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate in 2008 awarded a $6.2

million contract to Thales Communications. Its job was to develop and demonstrate the first-ever portable radio prototype that lets emergency responders-police, firefighters, emergency medical personnel and others-communicate with partner agencies, regardless of the radio band they operate on.

The result of that investment by the government is the Thales Liberty software defined multiband mobile radio which received FCC certification in April. The prototype is capable of operating in the primary public safety bands between 136-174 MHz, 380-520 MHz as well as in the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands. And because it is software defined it can be reconfigured to operate in emerging spectrum that will be dedicated to emergency communications as well.

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The Liberty radio is made in the U.S. and is the first multiband portable designed specifically for government agencies and first responders. And while it can be programmed to operate across the 2 meter ham band, don't look for very many of them to show up on your local repeater. They are priced at priced at a hefty $4,000 to $6,000, each. (Press release)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: HAMTESTS INTERNATIONAL TO LAUNCH IN THE USA

After successfully running the UK-only Hamtests.co.uk for just over 3 years, HamTests International is launching world-wide starting here in the US with the Technician, General and Amateur Extra license levels. Each randomly generated test will have the same question pools as real tests. 35 Questions in Technician and General practice tests. 50 in Amateur Extra practice tests.

HamTests International will also feature its 10 questions in 10 minutes technique. This is a quick practice designed for when you don't have the time to take a full practice test. It tests your ability to answer questions quickly and thoroughly so that you can ace the real exam on test day.

Yet another feature will allow the questions pools for US tests to be downloaded as a specially formatted PDF files for Sony eBook Readers, but can also be viewed in other ebook readers with PDF reading capability, or on a P C with any standard PDF reader.

To get an idea as to what to expect when the new HamTests Internation website is up and running you can visit Hamtests.co.uk and take a peek. (Southgate)

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COMMUNICATIONS SAFETY: THE STORY OF THE TEXTING TEEN

Communications can be hazardous to your health. Especially when one is not watching where they are walking because they are text messaging and wind up falling down a manhole.

According to news reports that's exactly what happened as a New York City teenager while she was sending a text message on her cell phone. On June 12th Alexa Longueira was about to send a text to a friend when she fell down the open manhole on Staten Island. The girls suffered only mild cuts and bruises.

Longeueria mother said workers told her they left the manhole uncovered and unattended for only seconds while they went to get cones from their truck. The city's Department of Environmental Protection said it was investigating the incident.

The girl's family said they are planning to file a lawsuit against the city. (Published news reports)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

Turning to the ham radio social scene, entries in the 2009 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, have reached 262. Organizers say that this is well on schedule to equal or better last year's total of 406.

Australia currently leads the list with 42 entries, followed by Germany with 40. Some of the more exotic places taking part include light houses or light ships in Egypt, Panama, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Sardinia, Iceland and Namibia.

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend, which this year begins on August 15th is fast becoming the most popular international event on the ham radio calendar. More information is on-line at illw.net (VK2CE)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: NORTH QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA IN SEPTEMBER

Australia's North Queensland Amateur Radio Convention will be taking place in the garrison city of Townsville from Friday September 18th to Sunday 20th. Daytime events will be happening at James Cook University Douglas Campus with night time events centered on one of the better bistros and convention rooms in the city. The registration deadline for Convention services is Friday August 28th. For an electronic copy of the Venue and Events notes and a Registration Form either surf to the TARC website at www dot tarc dot org dot au or by e-mail to vk4wit (at) wia (dot) org (dot) au (VK4ZZ)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: HAM RADIO HONORS TO W4RA

Some names in the news. First up is former ARRL and IARU president Larry Price, W4RA. He was honored at "Ham Radio 2009" in Germany. This in a presentation made by IARU Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR. Price was honored with the highest Norwegian Radio Relay League award called the Knight of the Order of the Golden Key. The award was given for W4RA many years of service to the IARU, the ARRL and Amateur Radio in general. But that's not all. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, then conferred the title of IARU President Emeritus upon Price. Price served as ARRL President from 1984-1992 and as IARU President from 1999-May 2009. (Southgate)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: FRANK BOLDEN JR., EX-KE4IQB TO HEAD NASA

Charles Frank Bolden, Jr., the former KE4IQB, has been confirmed by the Senate as the twelfth administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Bolden commanded Shuttle missions STS-45 and STS-60 and was an active participant in the Space Amateur Radio Experiment or SAREX program.

Bolden's confirmation marks the beginning of his second stint with NASA. His 34-year career with the Marine Corps included 14 years as a member of NASA's Astronaut Office. After joining the office in 1980, he traveled to orbit four times aboard the space shuttle between 1986 and 1994, commanding two of the missions. (NASA)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: K5LBU SAYS SWAZILAND DXPEDITION NEEDS YOU

Charles Frost, K5LBU, better known on the air as Frosty is looking to put together a team of operators to do the CQWW DX SSB Contest in October 2010 from Swaziland. According to Frosty, this would be a 10 or 15 day operation with the contest in the middle. He plans to use one callsign for the contest and the rest of the time you can operate with your own 3DA0 callsign. If you would be interested in going on this operation please contact K5LBU by e-mail to frosty1 (at) pdq (dot)net

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: DX GOES TO TWITTER

DX is going to Twitter. Ast least one DX news source is. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

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GB7MBC, one of Europe's busiest DX Clusters, is now on the Twitter social networking system. Postings provide such things as DX news, contests news and solar information. To follow GB7MBC on Twitter, just go to twitter.com/GB7MBC and add it to your list of 'tweets' you follow.

With the growing popularity of ham radio on Twitter its very likely that lots of other activities like radio club bulletins and the like will be soon showing up there as tweets as well. Maybe even a synopses of important Newsline stories will show up sometime soon. We are already looking for a volunteer who is willing to do that.

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

More information on Twitter is at www dot twitter dot com. (G0YLM)

**

STATISTICS: 1.5 MILLION NOT WATCHING TV

You might find this one hard to believe, but more than a month after the nationwide switch to all digital television, the AC Nielsen company says that some 1.5 million United States households with television receivers in them remain unready for DTV. The good news is thats down 200,000 households from the 1.7 million households that weren't ready two weeks before the June 12th changeover took place.

The A.C. Neilsen Company is a survey organization that specializes in television viewership statistics. It defines as unready any homes that rely on over-the-air TV and don't have a digital TV set or a DTV-to-analog set-top converter hooked up. It was Nielsen's statistic last January that 5 million homes not prepared for DTV that lead Congress to delay the DTV move to June. Put another way, about 1.5 million people who used to watch TV in the USA are not doing so right now. (MultiChammel OnLine)

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RADIO FROM SPACEL LUNAR ORBITER PHOTOGRAPHS APOLLO LANDING DITES

NASA has released new photos recently taken by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter showing the Apollo moon landing sites. The pictures, radioed back to Earth, show the Apollo missions lunar module descent stages sitting on the moon's surface This, as long shadows from a low sun angle make the modules descent locations very evident.

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter reached lunar orbit June 23rd and captured the Apollo sites between July 11th and the 15th. Though it had been expected that orbiter would be able to resolve the remnants of the Apollo mission, these first images came even before the spacecraft reached its final mapping orbit.

The Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter Camera was able to image five of the six Apollo sites, with the remaining Apollo 12 site expected to be photographed in the coming weeks. Future images from these sites are expected to have two to three times greater resolution. You can see the pictures at:
http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/LRO/multimedia/lroimages/apollosites.html (NASA)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: THE COLDEST OF THE COLD

Talk about the cold of space. On July 2nd the flight detectors of Planck' spacecraft's High Frequency Instrument reached the amazingly low operating temperature of -273ï¿½C and did it by radio.

The cool-down took place as the spacecraft has just entered its final orbit around the second LaGrange point of the Sun-Earth system. Planck is equipped with a passive cooling system that brings its temperature down to about -230ï¿½C by radiating heat into space. Three active coolers were ordered to take over from there to bring the temperature down further to an amazing low of -273.05ï¿½C. That's only 0.1ï¿½C above absolute zero which is the coldest temperature theoretically possible in our universe.

Such low temperatures are necessary for Planck's detectors to study the Cosmic Microwave Background of space. That's the so-called first light released by the universe only 380000 years after the Big Bang that many researchers gave birth to it. It does so by measuring its temperature across the solar sky. (Space)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: OSCAR 5 IN SAT MAGAZINE

The aging Oscar 5 satellite built by Australian radio amateurs at the end of the 1960's is mentioned in the latest issue of SatMagazine. The July through August issue covers the Australian space program and mentions the work of the hams who built Oscar 5 which was launched on January 23, 1970. The article includes a picture of bird which carried transmitters on 29.450 MHz and 144.050 MHz. The July/Aug 2009 issue of SatMagazine is at http://www.satmagazine.com/2009/SatMag_JulAug09.pdf) (WIA)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF BTHE LATVIAN AIRFORCE

The Latvian callsign YL90AIR stands for 90 years airforce in that nation. The commemorative operation will remain on the air through years end. QSL it via bureau or eQSL. (Southgate)

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ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING SPAIN'S SAN MIGUEL DE PEDROSO HAM GATHERING

On the air, listen out for Spanish special event station EG1SMP to be on the air between July 24th and August 7th, especial during the ham radio gathering in San Miguel de Pedroso between July 25th to the 26th. QSL via the bureau to EA2BT. (Via e-mail)

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DX

In DX, word that F6ICX, will be active as 5R8IC from Saint Marie Island between November 17th and December 15th. His operation will be on 80-10 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

EA5RM, is expected to be working in Bolivia during the month of August. He says that he expects to be on the air during his spare time as CP1XRM. QSL as directed on the air.

M0TDG and G3ZAY will be active portable FP from Miquelon from September 24th to the 27th. Their activity will be on the low bands using CW and SSB. QSL via their home callsigns.

I1FQH, will be active as 5V7PRF from Kpalime, Togo, through July 30th. This will be a very light DXpedition with activity on 80 through 10 meters using mostly CW and some SSB. He will use 100 watts into a Spiderbeam for 20, 17 and 15m as well as a vertical and wire dipoles for the other bands. QSL to I1FQH via LoTW, eQSL or bureau.

A group of international operators will be operating from Lesotho starting July 29th and continuing through August 13th. Activity will be on all bands with some emphasis on 16o and 80 meters with two stations on most of the time using CW and SSB. There is the possibility of a 3rd station for PSK and RTTY. Calls to listen out for include 7P8AO, 7P8YI, 7P8MM and several others. QSL as directed on the air.

Lastly, DJ7RJ, has received the callsign TO7RJ to be used from Mayotte September 22nd and October 21st. He will then use his call portable FH from October 23rd until he leaves the island on October 25th. Listen out for him on 160 through 10 meters and possibly 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via his Callbook address.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: RFID TAGS BEING USED ON LONDON SUBWAY

And finally this week, R F Identification tags that some hams believe could become another serious souce of interference are now being used to assist in maintaining the London subway system. John Williams, VK5BUI, has the details:

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Confidex, a company with expertise in RFID design, manufacturing and engineering, has supplied more than 10,000 of its Ironside UHF Gen2

hard tags to the London Underground.

The tags are being used to improve escalator maintenance.

The underground escalators carry more than three million passengers every day. Most commuters and tourists don't give the travelling metal staircases a second thought; a fact that is a testament to the reliability of the system and the care taken over the maintenance.

The steps that make up these escalators are subject to constant wear from the feet of passengers and from the mechanical movement on the escalator track.

To address the need for faster, more accurate and more cost-efficient maintenance, RFID technology was chosen. A decision was made to use RFID tags.

The 'step tracking system' uses a PDA with RFID reader mounted on a cradle beside the escalator and application software to read and write information on the tag.

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So far there have been no reports from the London VHF and UHF ham community of any interference problems being caused by the adoption of the RFID tag system. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, at the South-East Bureau in Birmingham, Alabama, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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327. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 29 (Friday, July 24, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-25 10:20:22 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090725095741.1EE17328DC@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1937
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 29
July 24, 2009
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* + Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD (SK)
* + The Doctor Is IN the ARRL Letter
* + Ham Radio Helps Out with Mountain Rescue
* + Special Bonus Section Added to "ARRL Ham Radio Licensing Manual"
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ "Passport to World Band Radio" in "Limbo"

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========

==> BOARD DISCUSSES INAPPROPRIATE USE OF AMATEUR RADIO, STRATEGIC PLANNING, OTHER ISSUES AT SECOND 2009 MEETING

The ARRL Board of Directors held its Second Meeting of 2009 July 17-18 in Windsor, Connecticut, under the chairmanship of President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. On Friday, the Board considered and acted on a number of recommendations from committees as well as motions by Directors. Saturday was devoted to reviewing and revising the ARRL Strategic Plan that was adopted in October 2006 <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/stratplan/ARRL_Strategic_Plan_October_2006.pdf>.

Inappropriate Use of Amateur Radio: The Board authorized the President to appoint an ad hoc committee to prepare guidelines for use by the

amateur community and others to identify inappropriate uses of Amateur Radio, while preserving our role of providing communications during times of disasters and for public service events. The Board asked the committee to present its findings to the Executive Committee within 30 days.

Emergency Communications Advisory Committee: The Board considered, but ultimately declined to adopt a motion to establish an Emergency Communications Advisory Committee.

Amateur Auxiliary/Official Observer Program: Programs and Services Committee Chairman Bruce Frahm, K0BJ, announced the creation of an ad hoc subcommittee to study the Amateur Auxiliary/Official Observer program and recommend any desirable changes to the Board.

Emergency Liaison Station: The Board established a national-level appointment of Emergency Liaison Station to tie ARRL Headquarters to affected areas during disasters via Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) to HF or VHF linking.

Narrowband Channel Spacing: The Board directed the President to appoint a study committee for the purpose of research and to consider developing a plan to move the US amateur community to narrowband channel spacing in the VHF/UHF bands.

Volunteer Consulting Engineer Program: The Board extended the Volunteer Consulting Engineer program to registered professional engineers in addition to structural, civil and mechanical engineers.

Annual Audit: Acting on the recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee as presented by Chairman Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, the Board formally accepted the financial statements, including the auditors' opinion letter, for the year ending December 31, 2008.

ARRLWeb Redesign: A group from Fathom, a contractor based in Hartford, presented an update of the redesign of the ARRL's Web site.

IARU: The Board voted to appoint Rod Stafford, W6ROD, as IARU Secretary effective October 1, 2009. Stafford is retiring from full-time employment as of that date and will be available to serve as a volunteer in this capacity. The Board also directed the ARRL Secretary to cast a vote in favor of IARU Proposal No 245, concerning the admission of Union des Radioamateurs du Congo (URAC) to IARU membership.

Strategic Planning
The Board devoted a full day to reviewing and updating the three year old ARRL Strategic Plan. Last year, the Board invited ARRL members to comment on the League's future direction <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/stratplan/>. These comments were read and considered by the Board. Before turning the comments over to the Executive Committee, they added some thoughts of their own. The Executive Committee started drafting ideas for the new Strategic Plan at its March 2009 meeting.

The review process at the 2009 Second Meeting included breakout sessions to develop possible strategies to address each of six goals that will guide the ARRL for the next three to five years; the results of the breakout sessions were then reported back to the full Board. The complete output of the planning session will be reported back to the participants for e-mail discussion and then considered by the Executive Committee at its next meeting in October. The Executive Committee will refine the document.

Awards
The Board established the George Hart Distinguished Service Award to be given to an ARRL member whose service to the League's Field Organization is of the most exemplary nature. Selection criteria for this award may include an operating record with the National Traffic System (NTS), participation in ARES or station appointments and/or leadership positions held in the Field Organization. Nominations may be made by anyone, and the nominees should have a minimum of 15 years of service. Nominations will be considered by the Board at its Annual Meetings in January.

The Board made some changes to the Bill Leonard, W2SKE, Professional Media Award, establishing separate categories for audio formats, visual formats and print/text formats and redirecting the cash awards from the winners to an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of the recipient's choice.

Hiram Percy Maxim Award: The Board selected Jason Hatfield, KD8FDD, of Grafton, West Virginia, as the recipient of the 2008 Hiram Percy Maxim Award.

Technical Excellence Award: For the second year in a row the Board chose John Stanley, K4ERO, Georgia, as the recipient of the 2008 Doug DeMaw, W1FB Technical Excellence Award.

Technical Service Award: The 2009 ARRL Technical Service Award went to Geoffrey Haines, N1GY, of Bradenton, Florida for his prolific and clear writing.

Technical Innovation Award: Dan Smith, KK7DS, of Hillsboro, Oregon received the 2009 ARRL Technical Innovation Award for his programming contributions to digital communications.

Instructor of the Year Award: The Board selected Brian Short, KC0BS, of Olathe, Kansas, as the recipient of the 2009 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award.

McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award: The Board selected Nate Brightman, K6OSC, of Long Beach, California, as the winner of the 2009 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award for excellence in public relations.

Joe Knight Distinguished Service Award: The Board conferred ARRL Joe Knight Distinguished Service Awards on two long-time volunteers this year: former Western New York Section Manager Bill Thompson, W2MTA, of Newark Valley, New York, and Georgia Section Manager Susan Swiderski,

AF4FO, of Norcross, Georgia.

Guests
International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Vice President International Affairs Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, were guests of the Board.

The complete Minutes of the 2009 Second Meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors will be available soon on the ARRLWeb.

The next meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors is scheduled for January 15-16, 2010.

==> FCC CONTINUES BPL DEBATE

On July 17, the FCC issued a "Request for Further Comment and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" ("FNPRM") <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-60A1.pdf>, addressing the issues remanded to them by the US Court of Appeals. In October 2007, the ARRL took the Commission to court concerning the Commission's Orders adopting rules governing broadband over power line (BPL) systems <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/10/25/102/?nc=1>. In April 2008, the Court agreed with the ARRL on two major points and remanded the rules to the Commission <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/?nc=1>. Writing for the three-judge panel of Circuit Judges Rogers, Tatel and Kavanaugh, Judge Rogers summarized: "The Commission failed to satisfy the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act ('APA') by redacting studies on which it relied in promulgating the rule and failed to provide a reasoned explanation for its choice of the extrapolation factor for measuring Access BPL emissions."

* New Information?

The Court found, among other things, that the FCC not only withheld the internal studies until it was too late to comment, but had yet to release portions of studies that may not support its own conclusions regarding BPL. The FCC claimed that the studies were "internal communications" that it did not rely upon in reaching its decision to adopt the BPL rules. In its April 2008 ruling, the Court ordered the FCC to release the studies. In March 2009, when the FCC still had not released the redacted portions of the studies as ordered by the court, the ARRL filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the studies. Six weeks later, the FCC released the redacted portions of the studies <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/08/10811/?nc=1>.

To contend with the Court's ruling, the Commission is now requesting comment on the information in those studies as it pertains the FCC's BPL decisions. The Commission is "also placing into the record certain additional materials that contain preliminary staff research and educational information" that was not previously made available. It is these records that concern ARRL Laboratory Manager and BPL expert Ed Hare, W1RFI.

"At the same time the FCC released the new 'FNPRM,' it also released 800 MB of previously unseen FCC internal staff reports and video on BPL," Hare said <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/BPL_FOIA.html>. "Although the FCC tries to downplay the work of their own staff by saying that these reports are only the opinion of one FCC staffer, these conclusions about BPL from the FCC Lab were made by FCC technical people with strong experience in measurement techniques and interference assessment. This is generally good engineering, with a clear objective of providing the Commission with accurate technical information about BPL."

According to Hare's preliminary review of the "FNPRM," the FCC's own technical findings clearly spell out that BPL operating at the FCC limits has a very strong potential to cause interference to licensed radio users: "These reports show that BPL causes interference to a number of licensed services for significant distances from BPL noise sources and that the noise from BPL at antennas that are about 100 feet from wires carrying BPL operating at the FCC limits will represent an increase in noise of about 30 dB in most cases."

Hare said that other slides show that radiated noise from overhead power lines increases significantly above the noise at ground level. "Based on these internal FCC technical analyses, the present rules and test methods -- when coupled with inappropriate distance extrapolation -- simply do not protect licensed users from interference," he said. "The Commission was well aware of the content of these presentations when it issued a BPL "Report and Order" that discounted ARRL when the League made many of the same technical points in its filings."

* Extrapolation Factor: FCC Looking for Compromise?

One of the major points of difference between ARRL and the FCC has been the measurement extrapolation factor below 30 MHz that is applied to measurements made at distances from power lines or other radiating sources to determine what the value of that measurement would be at a distance of 30 meters. This is the distance in the FCC rules for which maximum permitted emission are specified. The FCC believes that this factor should be 40 dB/distance decade.

Hare explained why this is incorrect: "The FCC's test method measures BPL emissions at ground level, using a loop antenna located 1 meter off the ground. Amateurs know that a low horizontal antenna radiates more energy upward than it does toward the horizon, and that a measurement made of a radiating power line at 1 meter off the ground is not a good indicator of the noise levels that will be present at angles upward from that same power line, where HF antennas are most apt to be located. The 40 dB extrapolation factor and the lack of any correction for height result in a BPL system that will significantly exceed the FCC emission limits at the very point where most Amateur HF antennas are located."

In response to its remand of a portion of BPL measurement procedure, the FCC is "also providing an explanation of our reasons for selecting 40 dB per decade as the extrapolation factor for frequencies below 30 MHz. We

further explain why we believe the studies and technical proposal submitted earlier by the ARRL do not provide convincing information that we should use an extrapolation factor that is different from that which we adopted," noting the existence of "more recent studies" that prove their point.

In the "FNPRM," the FCC states that they are "re-examining the current extrapolation factor in light of the recently issued technical studies addressing the attenuation of BPL emissions with distance and efforts by the IEEE to develop BPL measurement standards." Using these studies and older ones, the FCC said that "there can be considerable variability in the attenuation of emissions from BPL systems across individual measurement sites that is not captured in the fixed 40 dB per decade standard."

Based upon this "considerable variability," the FCC has opened a 30 day comment period, asking if they should change their rules to "adjust the extrapolation factor downward to 30 dB or some other fixed value and, as an alternative, also allow use of a special procedure for determining site-specific BPL extrapolation values using in situ measurements."

Hare notes that the "FNRPM" is creating a complex way to look for a simple solution to a complex problem. "It's ironic that the FNPRM discusses the 'considerable variability' in attenuation at BPL sites, then proposes that a measurement of a mere four points within that variability can determine the supposedly actual extrapolation. The NTIA Phase II study that is the 'newer study' that the FCC is relying on for part of its justification for 40 dB/decade shows an environment extremely more complicated than that. Trying to apply any measurement of extrapolation to this complex environment is a recipe for failure -- and possible 'cherrypicking' of results that will allow those making measurements of BPL systems to provide any value of extrapolation they want, in either direction. I serve on the IEEE committee that developed the draft for this extrapolation-measurement method and I did not stand alone in not supporting the approach that the P1775 Working Group has sent to ballot. At this point, the working group is in the process of resolving and rebutting the numerous comments received in the still-unresolved IEEE ballot."

Even though the FCC is inviting comments, they state that they "do not believe that the studies and technical proposal submitted earlier by the ARRL provide convincing information that we should use an extrapolation factor that is different from (and, specifically, less than) 40 dB. We believe that [other] studies [we have relied on] further validate the use of 40 dB as the extrapolation factor. In addition, the sufficiency of our rules for ensuring compliance is further validated by the fact that we have not had any new complaints of interference for more than two years."

Hare has worked extensively with the BPL industry to help it address interference. "If the FCC thinks that the falling off in BPL complaints is due to the sufficiency of its rules, it is mistaken," he said. "In

response to ARRL's input and offers of help, the industry has essentially stopped using the amateur bands in US deployments. The FCC's own video documentation of interference from BPL that is operating under the rules the FCC put forward should be more than sufficient to show that the rules as written are not good ones. The industry has reduced the interference from BPL by doing more than the rules require. By not using the amateur bands and by improving the filtering of BPL systems well beyond the inadequate requirements of the present rules, the industry and ARRL have shown that it is possible to operate BPL systems without widespread interference problems to Amateur Radio."

Hare said that what is needed now "are good rules and industry standards that reflect this successful model. That is not seen in this FNPRM. Rules that reflect the industry practice of not using the amateur bands and that specify state-of-the-art filtering could protect the Amateur Radio Service and support this still-nascent BPL industry."

==> WALTER CRONKITE, KB2GSD (SK)

Legendary CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, who held the title of "Most Trusted Man in America," passed away Friday, July 17 after a long illness. He was 92. The avuncular Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years until 1981 when he retired. During that time, he reported on such subjects as the Kennedy assassinations, the Civil Rights movement, the Apollo 11 lunar landing, Vietnam and the Vietnam-era protests, the Arab-Israeli Six Day War, Watergate and the Begin-Sadat peace accords.

Cronkite, an ARRL member, narrated the 6 minute video "Amateur Radio Today" <http://www.arrl.org/ARToday/>. Produced by the ARRL in 2003, the video tells Amateur Radio's public service story to non-hams, focusing on ham radio's part in helping various agencies respond to wildfires in the Western US during 2002, ham radio in space and the role Amateur Radio plays in emergency communications. "Dozens of radio amateurs helped the police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC," narrator Cronkite intoned in reference to ham radio's response on September 11, 2001. "Their country asked, and they responded without reservation."

In 1963, it was Cronkite who broke into the soap opera "As the World Turns" to announce that the president had been shot -- and later to declare that he had been killed. CBS called it a "defining moment for Cronkite, and for the country. His presence -- in shirtsleeves, slowly removing his glasses to check the time and blink back tears -- captured both the sense of shock, and the struggle for composure, that would consume America and the world over the next four days."

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was Cronkite's radio engineer at CBS for many years. "I had many chances to discuss my favorite hobby, ham radio, with 'the world's most trusted anchor man,'" he told the ARRL. "Gradually, his interest increased, but on finding that he had to pass a Morse code

test, he balked, saying it was too hard for him; however, he told me he had purchased a receiver and listened to the Novice bands every night for a few minutes. At the CBS Radio Network, Walter would arrive 10 minutes before we went on the air to read his script aloud, make corrections for his style of grammar and just 'get in the mood' to do the show. In those days Rich Moseson, W2VU, was the producer of a show called "In the News," a 3 minute television show for children voiced by CBS Correspondent Christopher Glenn. On this day, Rich was at the Broadcast Center to record Chris' voice for his show and had dropped by my control room to discuss some upcoming ARRL issues." At the time, Mendelsohn was the ARRL Hudson Division Director.

"When Walter walked into the studio, I started to set the show up at the behest of our director, Dick Muller, WA2DOS," Mendelsohn recalled. "In setting up the tape recorders, I had to send tone to them and make sure they were all at proper level. Having some time, I grabbed "The New York Times" and started sending code with the tone key on the audio console. For 10 minutes I sent code and noticed Walter had turned his script over and was copying it. We went to air, as we did every day, at 4:50 PM and after we were off, Walter brought his script into the control room. Neatly printed on the back was the text I had sent with the tone key. Rich and I looked at the copy, he nodded, and I told Walter that he had just passed the code test. He laughed and asked when the formal test was, but I reminded him that it took two General class licensees to validate the test and he had just passed the code. Several weeks later he passed the written test and the FCC issued him KB2GSD."

Mendelsohn helped Cronkite make his first Amateur Radio contact: "Having passed the licensing test, Walter was now ready to get on the air. His first QSO was on 10 meters about 28.390 MHz. He was nervous and I called him on the phone to talk him through his first experience. As we talked on the air, a ham from the Midwest come on and called me. Acknowledging him, I asked the usual questions about where he was from, wanting to give Walter a bit of flavor of what the hobby was about. I turned it over to Walter, and following his introduction, the gentleman in the Midwest said, 'That's the worst Walter Cronkite imitation I've ever heard!' I suggested that maybe it was Walter and the man replied, 'Walter Cronkite is not even a ham, and if he was, he certainly wouldn't be here on 10 meters.' Walter and I laughed for weeks at that one."

In 2007, ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, presented Cronkite with the ARRL President's Award. This award, created in 2003 by the ARRL Board of Directors, recognizes an ARRL member or members who "have shown long-term dedication to the goals and objectives of ARRL and Amateur Radio" and who have gone the extra mile to support individual League programs and goals. Cronkite was selected to receive the award in April 2005 in recognition of his outstanding support of the ARRL and Amateur Radio by narrating the videos "Amateur Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington" <http://www.arrl.org/pio/VTS-video.wmv>. "It was quite a thrill to make this presentation to Cronkite," Fallon said. "He has long been recognized as the 'most trusted man in America,' so

lining our causes to his face, name and voice has been a great help."

A private memorial service was held July 23 in New York City. Cronkite will be cremated and his remains buried in Missouri next to his wife Betsy, who passed away in 2005. A public memorial service will be held within the next month at Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Foundation through the Austin Community Foundation <http://www.austincommunityfoundation.org/>, which will distribute contributions to various charities the couple supported.

==> THE DOCTOR IS IN THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Question -- Jeff Freedman, K7JF, of Gig Harbor, Washington, asks: I am setting up my beam antenna for the first time. I understand there is a true north and a magnetic north (or south for the Southern Hemisphere). What is the difference between true and magnetic? For which of the two should my beam be initially calibrated? If magnetic north, how do I know where to set the beam?

The Doctor Answers -- Magnetic north is the direction a compass needle points to, while true north is the direction to the Earth's northerly rotational axis point. They are indeed different in most places, and the difference is different for each spot on Earth. It also changes over time. The difference is referred to as magnetic variation on nautical charts and as magnetic declination in some other venues.

NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center provides information on the nature of this phenomenon as well as maps showing the correction <http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/geomag/declination.shtml>. For example, at my station location in Connecticut, in 1981 the magnetic variation was 13 degrees west with an annual increase of 4 minutes. That means in 2009, it should be a bit less than 16 degrees. If you look at the US map on the above Web site you will see that they have it near the -15 degrees line.

In addition to the Web site, you can find your variation on any nautical chart of a location near your station, on any coast and geodetic survey map or call your town engineer. To convert magnetic north readings from your compass to true north, subtract if the variation is westerly (negative on the NOAA map), add if easterly.

Conceptually, either a true or magnetic reference could be used, as long as you keep track and convert everything to the same basis. All propagation programs that I am aware of give bearings with respect to true north, so I would suggest using true bearings on your rotator controller.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org>; or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> HAM RADIO HELPS OUT WITH MOUNTAIN RESCUE

It was a quiet afternoon on July 11 and Rich Lippucci, KI6RRQ, of Vista, California, was monitoring the Catalina Amateur Radio Association (CARA) repeater on his base station. "I heard someone come over the repeater, calling, 'Is there anybody listening?' I responded and the caller said he was on his handheld transceiver hiking around the Mt Baldy area. He was about 2.5 miles off road and resting at the wilderness San Antonio Ski Hut <http://angeles.sierraclub.org/lodges/sanantonioskihut.html>. A few hikers had arrived from farther in the backcountry -- one of their friends had broken an ankle and was a mile or more up the trail and they needed help." Mt Baldy is the highest peak in the San Gabriel Mountains and the highest point in Los Angeles County.

Lippucci asked the caller for his call sign and name. "He told me he was Kirk Gustafson, KE6MTF," he told the ARRL. "I asked Kirk if he had a cell phone, but he told me there was no cell service where they were. I told him I would coordinate emergency services over my landline and asked for his exact location. He did an excellent job; he had a good idea of where he was and wasn't sure which county he was in, but he did have GPS coordinates."

Using his landline, Lippucci called 911 and was transferred three times until he was connected to Chelsea in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's dispatch center. "Chelsea coordinated the rescue with the San Bernardino Fire Department who sent a foot patrol to the area," he said. "The Sherriff's office dispatched a helicopter to meet someone at the ski hut to take them to where the hiker was down. It took a little less than an hour for emergency services to get above the location in a helicopter, but they were not able to land the helicopter due to the rocky terrain at the ski lift." Lippucci said that while the foot patrol and helicopter were on their way, the group of hikers had brought the injured woman down the trail to the ski hut, stabilized her leg and determined it was probably not broken. They still did not feel they could carry her out as the trail down from the wilderness ski lift was so steep." The ski hut can only be reached via a steep three mile hike and 2200 feet elevation gain.

The dispatcher told Lippucci that the helicopter would perform a skid rescue where a crew member suspends a bed basket from the helicopter; the victim is secured and pulled back up to the helicopter. The dispatchers asked Lippucci to relay back to Gustafson, asking if the group needed anything, such as food or water. Gustafson relayed back that they didn't need anything. "After about 15 minutes from arriving on site, the helicopter and its crew got the victim airlifted out successfully without further complications," Lippucci said. Gustafson took a video of the rescue with his cell phone <http://marlene.zimage.com/ke6mtf/hike/rescue/iPhone/IMG_0408.MOV>.

Gustafson and Lippucci -- both ARRL members -- have been in contact since that Saturday afternoon. "Since the incident, Kirk informed me that the injured lady was around 40 years old and that there were up to 15 hikers hanging around the ski hut, some of which were search and rescue volunteers on vacation," he told the ARRL. "They had some kind of radios with them, but their batteries where dead. Kirk said when he got out of his car to start his hike, he grabbed his handheld transceiver radio and GPS. His friends told him 'That's just extra weight -- you won't need that.' He told them, 'I go nowhere without my radio. If I need to call for help, the only way I would be able to let them know where I am is with GPS. I'm bringing them.' I don't think they will say that next time! Kirk said that one of them decided they need to look into getting a ticket and radio and that the search and rescue folks said they were going to look into getting ham radio licenses."

Lippucci said that ham radio saved the day: "A handheld radio, hitting a local wide-area repeater, was what was needed when cell and landline phones were not available. Many thanks to the CARA club for their awesome reach in Southern California on 2 meters. Thanks also to those on the air that where very gracious to respect the traffic and keep communications open during the rescue. This is such an excellent example of the benefits of ham radio. If people had to hike out of the wilderness, get to their cars and find a cell signal, they might have been pushing up against the loss of daylight hours. Any rescue would have been significantly more difficult in the dark."

Lippucci told the ARRL that 911 and the Sherriff's office in San Bernardino accepted the ham radio call without hesitation. "They used a ham radio operator to relay questions to Kirk through me, to gain all the information they wanted and needed to put assets on the emergency," he said. "It was as if I was calling about something in my own backyard, even though the problem was several counties away in the mountains, with people I didn't know. I am proud to have had the opportunity to use my license in service of an emergency situation. As a CERT member <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>, this was the very reason I got my ham radio license in the first place!" -- Information provided by Rich Lippucci, KI6RRQ

==> SPECIAL BONUS SECTION ADDED TO "ARRL HAM RADIO LICENSING MANUAL"

The most common question asked by new radio amateurs is "Now that I have my license, what kind of radio should I get?" The ARRL, in an attempt to help newcomers to Amateur Radio answer that very question, has added a bonus supplement to the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9639>. "Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" is aimed at the new Technician licensee ready to acquire a first radio, a licensee recently upgraded to General class and wanting to explore HF or someone getting back into Amateur Radio after a period of inactivity.

The guide features two main sections -- one covering gear for the VHF and UHF bands, and one for HF band equipment, including a VHF/UHF and an HF glossary of terms you will encounter. The guide also urges you to

discover just what you want to do with Amateur Radio and where you want to do it from. Do you want to be a "big gun" HF contester? Do you want to ragchew on your local repeater system? Maybe you want to join your local ARES unit and help provide communications support in times of emergency. This guide will help you select the right rig for what you want to do.

"Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" isn't a traditional "buyer's guide" with feature lists and prices for many radios. Manufacturer's Web sites and catalogs from radio stores have plenty of information on the latest models and features. As such, you won't find operating instructions or technical specifications here, but many manufacturers' Web sites will let you download brochures and manuals directly.

Second only to "What kind of radio should I get?" "What kind of antenna do I need?" is the most common question asked by the new amateur. Don't worry! "Choosing a Ham Radio: Your Guide to Selecting the Right Equipment" talks about all kinds of antennas -- from "rubber duckies" to verticals to dipoles to Yagis; it even explains rotators and antenna gain.

An explanation of power, filters and digital signal processing (DSP), as well as special features commonly found on VHF/UHF and HF radios are also included in the guide. ARRL members who are logged on to the ARRL Web site can view the guide online <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/choosingaradio/>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun himself has sent me like a ray" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: No new sunspots yet, but a big surprise this week with aurora and a geomagnetic storm: Sunspot activity peaked around 0300-0900 UTC on Wednesday July 22, with K index as high as 6. The planetary A index for the day was 24. One nice result was aurora propagation on 6 meters. A week ago there wasn't any indicator of increased activity. There is a new sunspot trying to emerge today (July 24), but it looks to be from Solar Cycle 23. Sunspot numbers for July 16-22 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 66.7, 66.2, 67, 67.6, 68.2, 67.7 and 67.8 with a mean of 67.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 3, 2, 6, 4 and 24 with a mean of 6.4. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 0, 1, 1, 3, 3 and 18 with a mean of 4. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet geomagnetic conditions July 24-25, quiet to unsettled July 26 and back to quiet for July 27-30. The US Air Force and NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center calls for planetary A index of 5 for July 24-25, 8 on July 26, 7 on July 27 and back to 5 though the end of the month. They predict solar flux on July 24-26 at 68, 69 and 70, remaining at 70 through August 7. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin

page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by George Gordon, Lord Byron's "Don Juan" <http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Don_Juan_(Byron)>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for an NCCC Sprint Ladder on July 24. The RSGB IOTA Contest is July 25-26. Next week, the ARRL UHF Contest, the 10-10 Summer QSO Party and the North American QSO Party (CW) are August 1-2. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration remains open through Sunday, July 26, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, August 7, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* "Passport to World Band Radio" in "Limbo": The publisher of "Passport to World Band Radio" <http://www.passband.com/> told readers that the future of the seminal SWL guide is in "limbo." Acknowledging on the Passport's Web site <http://www.passband.com/passport-to-world-band-radio%C2%AE-in-limbo/> that "solid content" is essential to the success of a publication, publisher Larry Magne cited "other considerations" as the impetus behind the decision to possibly cease publication. While Magne gave no exact reason for the decision, it reflects the decline in popularity of shortwave listening, as well as the availability of shortwave schedules on the Internet. Magne said that "Passport to World Band Radio," which just released its 25th edition this year, will continue "to maintain the

WorldScan database and uphold all proprietary material. Among other things, this should help allow for an orderly return to production...should conditions allow. For Passport readers and our small team alike, this is a seminal moment. After all, 'Passport to World Band Radio' goes back a quarter century and has had something like a million readers worldwide. But the future has its own rhythm that confounds prognostication. There may yet be more chapters to this story. Stay tuned." "Passport to World Band Radio" is available from the ARRL Online Store <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=0339>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.

(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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328. Kool-Aid Days Special Event Station

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-31 02:31:48 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090730212403.2FD1C301C5@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1938
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx,rec.radio.info

Allen Harpham, KB0ASQ, Vice President and PIO for the Amateur Radio
Association of Nebraska (Hastings) sent me the following notice:

On August 15, 2009, from 1500 to 2100 UTC (10 am to 4 pm Central Time),
the Amateur Radio Association of Nebraska will operate K0A as part of
the annual celebration of the invention of Kool-Aid. Frequencies to be
used will be 14.275 and 7.250 MHz. To receive a certificate, send your
QSL to the Amateur Radio Association of Nebraska, P.O. Box 6, Hastings,
NE 68901. Visit the club's website for more information:
http://w0wwv.org.

73,
Art K0AIZ

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
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329. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1668 - July 31 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-31 09:57:56 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090731025503.0168caa8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1939
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1668 - July 31 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1668 with a release date of
Friday, July 31st, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. California hams assist in a mountain rescue.
We have the sound from the scene. Also, a new radio telemetry system
could be a big challenge to BPL for power grid control, another
petition to ban closed and private repeaters is filed with the FCC and
Johannes Kepler is honored with his own spaceship. Who was Johannes
Kepler you ask? Find out on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number
1668 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CALIFORNIA HAMS HELP WITH MOUNTAIN RESCUE

A pair of Southern California hams have helped to coordinate a mountain
rescue. This after one received a report from the other over a 2 meter
repeater that a hiker had been injured on one of the highest peaks in
the San Gabriel Mountain range.

Rich Lippucci, KI6RRQ, was monitoring the Catalina Amateur Radio
Association repeater from his home in the city of Vista on Saturday,
July 11th . That's when he heard a station ask if there was anyone
monitoring. He responded and learned that the caller, Kirk Gustafson,
KE6MTF, was on his handheld transceiver hiking around the Mt Baldy
area. He was about 2.5 miles off road at the San Antonio Ski Hut when
other hikers informed him that a woman was hurt up the trail in the
backcountry. They suspected she might have a broken ankle but were not
sure. They also had no cellphone service:

--

Rescue audio. Hear it in the audio version of this newscast
downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

Using his wireline telephone, Lippucci called the local 911 emergency
number and was eventually connected to the San Bernardino County
Sheriff's dispatch center. He then worked with an operator only
identified as Chelsea and coordinated the rescue with the San
Bernardino Fire Department who sent a foot patrol to the area:

--

Rescue audio. Hear it in the audio version of this newscast
downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

Meantime, the local sheriff's office dispatched a helicopter to meet someone at the ski hut to take them to where the hiker was down. Unfortunately, the chopper could not land in the rugged terrain.

In the meantime, the group of hikers had transported the injured woman down the trail to the ski hut, stabilized her leg and determined it was probably not broken. But they also realized that they could not carry her out of the area due to the steepness of the trail. The dispatcher told Lippucci that the helicopter would perform a skid rescue. That's where a crew member suspends a basket from the helicopter the victim is strapped in and pulled back up. It was not long before the helicopter was getting ready:

--

Rescue audio. Hear it in the audio version of this newscast
downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

At that point Gustafson relayed back that the rescue would likely happen momentarily.

--

Rescue audio. Hear it in the audio version of this newscast
downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

After about 15 minutes from arriving on scene the helicopter crew got the victim airlifted out and on her way to treatment.

According to Lippucci both the 911 emergency dispatch and the Sheriff's office accepted the ham radio emergency call without hesitation. The San Bernardino Sheriff's office has had a long and very positive relationship working with that county's radio amateurs. In fact, Lippucci says that they used a ham radio operator to relay questions to through him to Gustafson. This, in order to gain all the information they wanted and needed to put assets on the emergency.

The rescue was truly a success for ham radio. Lippucci says that as a CERT member, this was the very reason that got his radio license for, in the first place. (KR6AL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: KY HAMS TO TAKE PART IN INFLUENZA PREPAREDNESS DRILL

Still with rescue radio news, word that the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management and its Department of Military Affairs has invited the states organized emergency communications groups to take part in a statewide pandemic influenza exercise. One that is planned for August 3rd to the 7th.

According to the planners, the communications portion of the exercise will begin each day at 8:00 A.M. and run until approximately 8:00 P.M. Monday through Thursday and will end at 2:00 P.M. on Friday. One of the goals is to use pre-identified 2 meter and 80 meter frequencies to facilitate contact with all 120 counties in the Commonwealth. Some UHF repeaters and Echolink equipped stations will also take part.

Planners say that to some degree the ham radio aspect of the exercise will be like operating a week long net with a station in the Commonwealth Emergency Operations Center used to pass traffic and log check-ins. More information on this massive Kentucky emergency planning exercise can be found at www.kyham.net/kyem2009.html. (KG4KBU via QRZ.com)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: RADIO COULD CHALLENGE BPL FOR ELECTRICAL SYSTEM MONITORING

FM subcarriers on broadcast stations also called SCA channels could challenge BPL in the area of power grid monitoring. Jerry Gaul, KE7GGV, has the details:

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B-P-L watch out. Here comes S-C-A. This, as e-Radio and Direct Energy announce that they are partnering with manufacturers of smart grid devices such as thermostats, in-home displays, load controls and appliances to use broadcast RF as a way to monitor power consumption needs.

Using FM subcarriers leased from radio stations, e-Radio transmits the notifications to the home-based receivers across a municipality or utility service area that results in significantly reduced peak energy demand. The technology can also intervene on the consumer's behalf, cycling off appliances for set periods of time during peak periods.

E-Radio and Direct Energy say that their Utility Message Channel allows utilities, energy retailers or government agencies to send alerts, messages and commands to smart grid-enabled devices and consumer appliances. This is information that tells them to lower their energy consumption and operate more efficiently.

The two partnering companies have conducted pilot tests in California, Texas and Ontario, Canada. In Texas, Direct Energy's affiliate, CPL Retail Energy, has launched a demand-response and energy efficiency pilot program for residential customers. The pilot uses e-Radio-enabled thermostats to achieve and measure peak period reductions.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Gerry Gaule, KE7GGV, in Albany, Oregon.

--

Direct Energy has an agreement with e-Radio, which operates wireless communications networks and makes FM receiver modules for "smart grid" devices to partner in this energy saving project. (RW)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the KF4ADM repeater serving Williamsburg Virginia.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: YET ANOTHER ANTI PRIVATE REPEATER PETITION FILED

Ham radio history is once again repeating itself. This as a Washington D.C. area ham becomes the latest to say its time to outlaw all closed and private repeaters and has asked the FCC for a rules change to outlaw these type of systems. And in a recent interview with Hap Holly, KC9RP, of the Rain Report, Murry Green, K3BEQ, of Cheverly, Maryland, explained what he is asking the regulatory agency to do:

--

Green: "I've asked the FCC to change the rules to prohibit limiting the use of frequencies used by closed repeaters directly or indirectly except where a user blatantly violates the Commissions rules."

Green told Holly that he's taking this action because he believes that the spectrum used by repeaters really belongs to all radio amateurs and that the claim by closed repeaters that limiting access helps share the financial burden has little merit:

--

Green: "Closed repeaters and its regulated frequency should be open to all amateurs having the proper class of licensee and not on a pay for use basis. Voluntary contributions work for the large majority of open repeaters throughout the United States. It can work for closed repeaters provided users are given that opportunity."

--

Green also appears to see closed and private repeaters as both discriminatory and a violation of the FCC's rules:

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Green: "Its not a closed society. Its not an elitist group. You simply can't discriminate. And also it violates the FCC rules which state that frequencies are to be regulated effectively and used effectively. If you have an elitist group that's discriminating on who can come in, its wrong. It's simply wrong. Its not amateur radio."

--

Green is not the first ham to file a rules change request asking the FCC to outlaw closed and private repeaters. Since Newsline began in 1977 we have reported on at least 6 similar petitions, and maybe more. All of these were denied for the same reasons. First is that the FCC does not recognize the terms open, closed and private in regard to repeaters. To the FCC, a repeater is a repeater and the words open, closed and private are nothing more than ham radio terms that you will not find in the rules.

Also, as recently as last May's Dayton Hamvention FCC Forum, the agency's rules man, Bill Cross, W3TN, reiterated the FCC long standing position that is not in any way discriminatory for a repeater owner operator to be selective in whom he or she chooses to repeat:

--

Bill Cross, W3TN: "One of the common misunderstandings is that amateur radio repeaters are not common carrier systems. There is no duty to serve on a non-discriminatory basis.

"If you want to limit it (access to a repeater) to people in a DX club, that's fine. If you want to limit it rush hour messages that are going to be traffic related or mobiles get priority, that's fine.

"You put the repeater up. Its yours to run and (its) your obligation to control it and limiting it is allowed."

--

At airtime, its not known if the FCC will assign a Rule Making designation to the K3BEQ rules change request or simply dismiss it as being non relevant based on past proceedings. After all, if the regulatory agency does not even recognize the existence of closed and private repeaters as separate and distinct entities, how can it act to make a rule to make them go away. (ARNewsline(tm) with audio provided by RAIN)

**

ENFORCEMENT: REPEATER PROBLEMS CONTINUE IN THE UK

Malicious interference and other firms of on the air abuse are still plaguing repeaters in London, England. Because of this at least one system is considering some drastic action with support of government regulators. Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, reports:

--

Repeater users in the London area will be aware that abuse continues to mar the network with a minority making it unpleasant for those who simply wish to enjoy the hobby. The East London 2m repeater, GB3EL, has been suffering from abuse recently and the Keeper has instigated a curfew between the 6pm and 6am to reduce the instances of abuse.

This action has proven effective in the past and the RSGB Emerging Technologies Committee and Ofcom support the Keeper's actions. The ETCC encourages proactive measures by all Keepers to manage their repeaters in accordance with the terms of their NoVs. Users are especially asked to consider their own actions and not to react when abuse is heard, as this is just what abusers are hoping will happen.

Im Jeramy Boot and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

The Term NOV used in that report stands for Notice of Variation to a UK ham license that permits one to put up a repeater. Unlike the United States where anyone install a temporary repeater to replace one that's gone dark to fight user abuse, in the UK it's the national society that holds all of the repeater operators licenses. An individual who decides to put one up without it being licensed could wind up doing some serious time in the old gray bar hotel. (RSGB)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: SENATE CONFIRMS CLYBURN AND BAKER AS FCC COMMISSIONERS

The U.S. Senate has confirmed President Obama's nominations of Democrat Mignon Clyburn, and Republican Meredith Attwell Baker, to the remaining two seats on the Federal Communications Commission. Clyburn is the daughter of House majority whip James Clyburn, and the former publisher and editor of the Charleston weekly newspaper, the Coastal Times. She currently serves on the South Carolina Public Service Commission. Baker, the daughter of former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, is a former Commerce Department official who oversaw the $40 coupon program for converter boxes during the digital television transition. Both were approved on Friday, July 24th (FCC) **

ELECTRONIC SAFETY: SMOKE DETECTOR RECALL

A product warning from the Consumer Products Safety Council. It says that About 94,000 Kidde model PI2000 dual sensor smoke alarms, have been recalled. This, because the agency says that an electrostatic discharge can damage the unit, causing it not to warn consumers of a fire. The recall includes the date codes 2008 Aug. 01 through 2009 May 04. The products were sold at retail, department, and hardware stores and through electrical distributors nationwide from August 2008 through May 2009. Details by Web at www.kidde.com or http://www.cpsc.gov. (CPSC Release)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: CALIFORNIA TEACHER TURNING OUR SCHOOL AGE HAMS

Amateur radio is finding a receptive young audience among some California school age youngsters. This, according to an article in the Los Angeles Times by writer Bob Poole who says that teenagers in one Los Angeles suburban middle school have been discovering shortwave radio and getting their ham radio licenses

Thanks to science teacher Karl Beutel, KE6MAO, some 75 teenagers in have already become licensed amateur radio operators and more will likely become hams in the coming years. This as the course will continued to be offered at the school.

Buetel said he was motivated to become a ham radio operator by the 1994 Northridge earthquake. You can read the LA Times story at www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-teen-radio25-2009jul25,0,1740751.story ?trac k=rss (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO PUBLICATIONS: PASSPORT TO WORLD BAND RADIO IN LIMBO

The publisher of Passport to World Band Radio has told readers that the future of the famed SWL guide is in "limbo." Acknowledging on the Passport's Web site that "solid content" is essential to the success of a publication, publisher Larry Magne cited what he termed as other considerations as the reason behind the decision to possibly cease publication.

According to the ARRL, Magne gave no exact reason for the decision, but indicated that it reflects the decline in popularity of shortwave listening, as well as the availability of shortwave schedules on the Internet.

Magne noted that Passport to World Band Radio, which just released its 25th edition this year, will continue to maintain the WorldScan database and uphold all of its proprietary material. He says that this should help allow for an orderly return to production, should conditions allow. (ARRL)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: CELEBRATING THE 2010 SUMMER E SEASON

The Oklahoma City DX club recently celebrated the peak summer 6 and 10 meter Sporadic E Season DX season by operating with the call W5E. Its is now looking to expand the celebration in 2010 by asking clubs in other call districts to reserve a W prefix and E suffix call for next June.

Club spokesman Graham Welch, WE5I, says that the W5E call has already been reserved by him for July 2nd to the 11th of 2010. He is now looking for clubs or individuals in each of the 1 to 4 and 6 through 0 call areas who are interested in reserving one of the remaining nine such calls in a joint celebration of the 2010 peak of sporadic E

season. Graham says to contact him by e-mail to we5I (at)cox (dot) net if your club or group is interested in taking part. (Oklahoma DX Club)

**

ON THE AIR: MISSOURI SCOUTS ON HF SEEKING RADIO MERIT BADGES

A group of scouts from Blue Springs Missouri Troop 58 are operating a High Frequency station at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation located in Camp Osceola. The scouts will be on the air in pursuit of their Radio Merit Badge through August 4th on 3.940 and 7.280 MHz using the special call N-Zero-Z. They will also be looking to exchange QSL cards via their Scoutmaster Michael Pratt, KB0EPY, whose address is good in the callbook or on QRZ dot com. (KB0EPY)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SPACE JAM 3 IN ILLINOIS

Take one part scouting. Add to it a high altitude ham radio balloon launch and a contact with the International Space Station. Mix it all together and you wind up with an event called Space Jam 3. Jack Parker, W8ISH, has the details:

--

While the world was watching replays of the history making moon walk last week, dozens of Illinois Boy Scouts were taking their first steps toward space technology.

Space Jam 3 got off the ground last week with a high altitude balloon launch in Rantoul, Illinois. Space Jam is sponsored by DePauw University. It's purpose is to get Scouts into technology.

With assistance from the Vermillion County Amateur Radio Association, they were able to launch a helium filled balloon and use the cross band repeater for amateur radio contacts across the Midwest.

The longest radio contact occurred when the balloon reached the 99-thousand foot level. Two stations, one in Walbridge, Ohio the other in Mexico, Missouri, completed a 470 mile QSO.

On the ground, Dave Cline KB9ZMF, said he thought 200 Boy Scouts were on the radios throughout the Space Jam. They also worked on high tech

merit badges in Space Exploration, ,Aviation, Radio & Electronics and on Nuclear Science Composite Materials

Talking with Astronaut Robert Thirsk, VA3CSA, onboard the International Space Station, topped the weekend Space Jam activities.

Reporting for Amateur Radio Newsline, this is Jack Parker W8ISH.

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Space Jam Four is already being planned for August of 2010. (W8ISH)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT-UK ANNOUNCES FUNCUBE

AMSAT-UK has announced a new amateur satellite project called FUNcube. This is an educational single cubesat project with the goal of educating young people about radio, space, physics and electronics.

FUNcube will support the educational science, technology, engineering, and math curricula and at the same time provide an additional resource for the Radio Society of Great Britain's GB4FUN Mobile Communications Center.

The target audience consists of primary and secondary school pupils and FUNcube will have a high power 145 MHz telemetry beacon that will provide a strong signal for the pupils to easily receive. It will also carry a UHF to VHF linear transponder that will have up to 1 watt and which can be used by radio amateurs worldwide for SSB and CW communications.

The FUNcube project has already received initial funding from the United Kingdom based Radio Communications Foundation and is expected be developed in collaboration with ISIS-Innovative Solutions in Space. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO NEAR SPACE: BACAR SET TO LAUNCH ON SATURDAY AUGUST 8

The long awaited South African Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio or BACAR flight will take place on Saturday, August 8th. The lighter than air craft will lift off Africa between 08:00 and 08:15 and with a multi-payload which should be of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners around the globe.

The payload includes an APRS system operating on 144.800 MHz which will be switched on 2 minutes before launch and allow APRS stations to follow the flight. A 40 meter beacon will be operating on 7.022 MHz transmitting telemetry information every one minute. The data will include the inside and outside temperature and the pressure in millibars.

The callsign of the APRS transmitter will be ZS6SAT. A full commentary of the launch activity to be broadcast on 7.082 MHz and streaming via EchoLink and on the world wide web. Please visit www.amsatsa.org.za for more information on the flight. (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: CHINA NOW AT 90000 HAMS

Ham radio is growing in China. According to the Chinese Radio Sports Association which oversees licensing for hobbyists in the world's most populous country, some 90,000 of the worlds radio amateurs live in are in that nation and the number has been steadily growing in recent years. This, despite mobile phones and the Internet becoming commonplace in nearly all of the country. (Published news report)

**

WORLDBEAT: UK CELEBRATES WW2 RADIO SERVICES

Meantime, the famed museum at London's Bletchley Park will be celebrating the essential contribution of radio to the war efforts. This, with the family event the weekend of August 1st and 2nd called Wireless Waves. Various radio societies and other groups will demonstrate a range of equipment from World War Two onwards. Groups taking part include the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society, Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society, Bletchley Park Radio Society and a World War Two replica German field radio station. Full details are at www.bletchleypark.org.uk. (GB2RS)

**

WORLDBEAT: US BASED TRANS-ATLANTIC BEACON UPS POWER

The WA1ZMS trans-Atlantic beacon operated by Brian Justin on 144.285 MHz is now running a 500 watt transmitter and giving the system a 7 kilowatt Effective Radiated Power signal beaming toward Europe. The beacon is G-P-S locked and the antenna is made up of two stacked 5-element yagi's beaming at 60 degrees from grid locator FM07fm. More about this system is on-line at www.directivesystems.com/WA1ZMS.htm (Southgate)

**

THE CONTEST CORNER: THE 2009 EUROPEAN DX CHAMPIIONSHIP

Turning to contest news, Saturday, August 1st is the European HF Championship contest. This event runs from 1200 until 2359 U-T-C using SSB and CW on all HF bands from 80 to 10 meters. The interesting exchange being used this year is the last two digits of the year you were licensed in addition to the obligatory signal report. An interesting exchange indeed. (Via e-mail)

**

DX

In DX, word that a multi-national operation from Swaziland will be on the air through August 11th. They will sign 3DA0SS from the Hawane Resort and a campsite near Manzini. Plans are to cover as many bands and modes as possible, including PSK31, RTTY and CW. Operations will be on or near to scout frequencies. QSLs should be sent via GI4FUM.

P49T and W3TEF portable P4 will activate P41USA over the anniversary date of the USA attacks on September 11th, 2001. Listen for P41USA to be active on all bands between September 8th and the 17th. Activity will include the September VHF Contest. All QSLs go to W3TEF.

OY1CT was active from Streymoy in the Faroe Islands during the RSGB IOTA Contest. If you work him QSL direct to OY1CT.

LA1BN and LA1LO will be operational on 50.155 MHz from grid square JO39 in the Norwegian mountains from August 10th to the 15th. QSL as directed by the operators.

Lastly, JA6VDB and JE6AQP will be active slash 6 from Japan's Nozaki Island, Ojika Island and Goto Island between August 8th to the 12th. Their operation will be on 40 through 15 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via their home callsigns, direct or via the bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: HONORING KEPLER WITH A SPACESHIP

And finally this week, any ham who operates or tracks ham satellites is well aware of the term Keplerian Elements. That's the mathematics numbers used to point your antenna. Well in honor of the man who developed them, Europe's next space freighter will be called Johannes Kepler. This, in honor of the great 17th Century German scientist's work. Frank Lusa, VK2FJL, has the rest of the story.

--

Johannes Kepler was the father of celestial mechanics. His three laws describe planetary motion and allow scientists to predict how objects will move through the solar system.

The Automated Transfer Vehicle is currently being assembled in Bremen ready for its 2010 mission to resupply the International Space Station.

European Space Agency delegates agreed to the name at a recent meeting. The first ATV was called Jules Verne after the French science fiction writer and completed a flawless maiden mission last year. It delivered more than five tones of supplies to the orbiting outpost before dropping back to Earth in a controlled burn-up over the Pacific Ocean.

The ATV is one of the most capable spacecraft ever developed in Europe. After launch, the space truck can work out where it needs to go in space, and then makes a fully automatic docking once it arrives at its

destination.

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Another Kepler spacecraft is also about to make the headlines. The US space agency has also used the Kepler name for its news planet hunting telescope due for launch in August. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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330. ANDREW KOENIG, KE5GDB, NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) "YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR" AWARD

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-31 18:47:59 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090731112225.03bd19b0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1940
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

THE AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE Editorial Office 28197 Robin Avenue Santa Clarita California Tel/Fax: (661) 296-7180 E-Mail: newsline@arnewsline.org

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release (July 30, 2009)

Contact: Bill Pasternak (WA6ITF) / Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) 661-296-7180 / newsline@arnewsline.org Dennis Motschenbacher (K7BV) / Vertex-Standard Corp. 714-827-7600 / d.motschenbacher@vxstdusa.com Rich Moseson, (W2VU) / CQ Communications, Inc. 516-681-2922 / w2vu@cq-amateur-radio.com

ANDREW KOENIG, KE5GDB, NAMED RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE(tm) "YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR" AWARD

"Wow! Oh, my God. All my friends here at Seabase are going to be really impressed. Oh, my God!"

And, that's how it sounded when we caught up with Andrew Koenig, call letters KE5GDB, by cellphone at the Boy Scouts of America Seabase in Key West, Florida, where he had just arrived with members of Troop 848 from Houston for a week of scuba diving adventures.

The Life Scout, who is just shy of his 16th birthday, is working to earn the Eagle rank and was ecstatic to learn he had been chosen for special recognition by the Amateur Radio Newsline. Before telling him he had been selected as the Young Ham of the Year, we asked Andrew how he might feel if he were to receive such an award. He said it would be a nice honor to share with his mentors, including his award nominator Nick Lance, call letters KC5KBO, who has helped several NASA astronauts earn their ham tickets.

"Young Ham of the Year would probably go in the book of things that I've done in ham radio that they are really impressed with," Andrew said. "It would just mean a lot to me.

"Nick Lance, he hasn't really been pushing me to do anything. A lot of the stuff I discover on my own. But, he's one of the big roles, one of the key aspects in ham radio and it would give him a really good feeling to know that one of his students went on to get youth ham of the year."

Andrew holds a General class license and passed the test for his first ticket back in 2005 while a sixth-grader at the Westbrook Intermediate School in Houston where Lance - who is retiring in August from the Johnson Space Center - teaches an amateur radio license class.

Andrew is the son of Joe and Lauri Koenig of Houston. Joe holds the call letters KE5JQA and got licensed as a result of Andrew's interest. Andrew also has a younger brother, Kyle.

Among the achievements Andrew has accomplished is helping with an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact at the Westbrook Intermediate School.

"I actually helped test a lot of the equipment for the contact, since it was a telebridge contact," Andrew recalled. "The station that was actually contacting the ISS was in California, I believe.

"And, we were in Clear Lake, Texas. So, for some reason the phone patch wasn't working properly. So, I had to actually go into one of the school phones and test that - I think about 15 minutes worth of testing before the contact started. And, finally right on time, we got it going again and everything was working just fine."

The contact with Astronaut Clay Anderson, who holds the ham radio call sign KD5PLA, was a success - thanks to Andrew.

Andrew also helped facilitate a terrestrial contact between Astronaut Chris Hadfield (ham radio call letters KC5RNJ and VA3OOG) and students at two Canadian schools using an Internet Repeater Linking Project (IRLP) node he had built and placed in his bedroom closet.

Andrew, who enjoys VHF and UHF operations, tried and tried and was finally successful in making his own contact with the space station using his handheld radios and portable directional antenna. He also has participated in training astronauts at the Johnson Space Center on ARISS contacts with schools, conducting simulated contacts with them, playing the role of the school students.

Andrew has also been quite active with public service events through the Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club in suburban Houston where he is immediate past vice president. He is also a member of the Seabrook Citizen's Emergency Response Team.

Among his other achievements is creating his own bicycle mobile setup:

"I had tried putting a handi-talkie on my bike and I wasn't impressed with the results because the rubber duck just didn't get out as far as I wanted to," Andrew recalled. "A couple months before, I had ordered my first mobile rig (radio), the FT-7800.

"And, actually a couple weeks before I decided to put it all together on the bike, I had bought a brand new gel cell battery. So, I thought, you know, hey I've got this remote that came free with the radio, I've got the battery, I've got an antenna, I got everything I need to make it happen. So, I just mounted it all on the bike with zip ties and I

had 50 watts mobile on a bike for VHF and UHF."

That attracted some attention from CQ magazine, which was looking for photo ideas for its 2008 calendar. Photographer Larry Mulvehill (WB2ZPI) visited Houston and Andrew's bicycle mobile became the calendar photo for September 2008. He and his bedroom-closet IRLP node will be featured the cover of the September 2009 issue of CQ magazine.

Andrew is going into his sophomore year at Clear Lake High School where he is a member of the school's marching band. He is also into computers and creating websites and he maintains his own website started when he was in middle school. Check out www.thathamkid.com. It offers kid-friendly information about ham radio, along with a jokes page and a lot more about Andrew's activities in amateur radio - including his working satellites.

His mentor and nominator for this award, Nick Lance, KC5KBO, summed it up best when he said: "Andrew has truly been an outstanding student of amateur radio.....He is an inspiration both to his fellow students and to hams of all ages."

Award Ceremony

The 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) "Young Ham of the Year Award" will be presented to Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB, on Saturday, August 15th, 2009 at the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. As the 2009 "Young Ham of the Year," Andrew will receive -- courtesy of Vertex-Standard -- an expense-paid trip to the Huntsville Hamfest, along with a gift of Yaesu brand ham radio equipment. CQ magazine will treat him to an expense-paid week at Spacecamp Huntsville, and will present Andrew with a variety of CQ products. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) will provide Andrew with a commemorative plaque at the award ceremony. Once again, the cost of year's plaque has been underwritten by Dave Bell (W6AQ), President of DBA Entertainment Inc., Hollywood California. Heil Sound Ltd. will also be presenting Andrew with a ham radio related gift.

The presentation of the award as a regular feature of the Huntsville Hamfest has been made possible through the generosity and kindness of the event's Planning Committee and the good offices of Huntsville Hamfest Association Vice President Charlie Emerson, N4OKL. (See http://www.hamfest.org)

This year's award ceremony will be hosted by Don Wilbanks (AE5DW) of Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) along with representatives of corporate underwriters Vertex-Standard and CQ Communications, Inc.

Award Program Background

The Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) "Young Ham of the Year" award (formerly the Westlink Report Young Ham of the Year Award) has been presented annually since 1986 to a licensed radio amateur (Ham) who is 18 years of age or younger and who has provided outstanding service to the nation, his/her community or the betterment of the state of the art in

communications through the Amateur Radio hobby/service. It maintains a website will full information on the award program and background material located at http://www.arnewsline.org.

Award Sponsors

The award program is jointly sponsored by the Los Angeles, California-based Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) with corporate support from Vertex-Standard Corporation of Cerritos, California and CQ Magazine of Hicksville, NY.

Since 1976, the Southern California-based Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) and its predecessor, the Westlink Radio Network, have been providing radio amateurs around the world with up-to-the-minute news at no cost to them. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) also co-sponsors with the Quarter Century Wireless Association the "Roy Neal, K6DUE, Amateur Radio Mentoring Project" that serves as a clearinghouse to match radio amateurs in need of educational assistance on the hobby with those able to aid them. (See http://www.arnewsline.org)

The award's two corporate underwriters are world leaders in their respective areas of Amateur Radio product support.

Vertex-Standard Corporation is considered the trailblazer in the design, manufacture and distribution of high quality Vertex-Standard commercial two-way radio, monitoring and air-band communications equipment along with its Standard Horizon marine electronics line and Yaesu brand Amateur Radio equipment. The Yaesu name is known world-wide among ham radio aficionados and is synonymous with premium quality ham radio gear. (See http://www.vertexstandard.com)

CQ Magazine and its sister publications, CQ VHF, Popular Communications and WorldRadio Online, are published by CQ Communications, Inc., and are considered the trend-setting publications serving today's modern radio amateur. (See http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com)

Past Recipients

Past recipients of the "ARNewsline Young Ham of the Year Award" include Shawn Alan Wakefield, WK5P, of Bartlesville, OK (1986); David Rosenman, KA9PMK, of Muncie, IN (1987); Jonathan Binstock, NK3D, of Potomac, MD (1988); Erin McGinnis, KAOWTE, of Topeka, KS (1989); Mary Alestra, KB2IGG, of Staten Island, NY (1990); Richard S. "Sammy" Garrett, AAOCR, of St. Louis, MO (1991); Angela (Angie) Fischer, KBOHXY, also of St. Louis (1992); Kevin Boudreaux, N5XMH, of New Orleans, LA (1993); Allison Daneen Zettwoch, KD4CKP, of Louisville KY (1994); Adam Weyhaupt, N9MEZ, of Alton IL (1995); Toby Metz, KB7UIM, of Boise ID (1996); Brian Mileshosky, N5ZGT, of Albuquerque NM (1997); Richard Paczkowski, Jr., KF4BIA, of Edgewater, FL (1998); Michelle Swann, KE4EZI, of Warner-Robins, GA (1999); Christopher Arthur, KT4XA, of Russelville, AL (2000); Patrick Clark, KC8BFD, of Elkwood, WV (2001); Josh Abramowicz, KB3GWY, of Reading, PA (2002); Jay Thompson, W6JAY, of Santa Ana, CA (2003); Andrea Hartlage, KB4IUM, of Grayson, GA (2004),

Rebekah Dorff, WG4Y, of Hoover, AL (2005), Catherine Ferry, NC8F, of Streetville, OH. (2006), Grant Morine, W4GHM, of Wilmington, NC (2007) and Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, of Leavenworth, KS. (2008).

Note: Attached photo courtesy of CQ Magazine - Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPIPhotographer.

-30-

331. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 30 (Friday, July 31, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-31 20:49:54 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090731202632.2688A3167B@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1941
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 30
July 31, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Nevada Hams Coordinate Roadside Medical Rescue
* + Local Hams Aid Rescue Squad to Solve Public Safety Interference
Issue
* + Baker, Clyburn Confirmed by Senate: FCC at Full Slate
* + FCC Issues Citation to Part 15 Marketer
* + Space Shuttle Endeavour Deploys Student-Built Satellites
* FUNcube Cubesat Project Announced
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ Amateurs Provide Communications Support During Gas Leak
+ FCC Expands ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental License
International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==========================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> NEVADA HAMS COORDINATE ROADSIDE MEDICAL RESCUE

On the afternoon of July 16, ARRL Elko County (Nevada) Emergency
Coordinator Greg Barker, K7CWL, was making his way home on Nevada
Highway 278 when a van sped past him. About 60 miles later into his
trip, he saw the van slow down and pull over to the side of the road.
Barker, a physical therapist, pulled over and asked if he could assist.
An elderly couple, their daughter and granddaughter were on the way to
the hospital in Elko -- another 60 miles -- as the grandmother was
experiencing what they believed was a series of mini-strokes.
```

The daughter told Barker that their van kept losing power and wouldn't run. Barker assessed the grandmother and tried to call 911 on his cell phone, but there was no coverage in that area. "I put out a call on my mobile radio, requesting immediate assistance, using the 146.850 repeater located about 55 miles away, part of a wide-area linked repeater system maintained by the Elko Amateur Radio Club," he told the ARRL. "Kent LeBart, K6IN, club president and a radio technician for the Nevada State Highway Patrol, was monitoring the system and responded immediately, asking how he could be of assistance."

Using the crossband repeat mode on his mobile radio, Barker was able to stay with the family at the van. He also used his handheld transceiver to tell LeBart that the grandmother needed to get to the emergency room. "Kent contacted central dispatch and relayed the information I gave him and asked me questions from the dispatch about the patient's situation and condition," he said. "Based on that information, they sent a medivac helicopter from Elko and an ambulance from Carlin."

Barker said that Highway 278 has no mile markers: "I relayed information to dispatch about the location using the closest ranch name and mountain pass turn-off as landmarks. With this information, volunteer fire fighters and first responders were on scene in about 20 minutes and the helicopter was on scene in about 30 minutes, followed by the ambulance at about 35 minutes."

Another local ham, Joe Sasgen, AD7OO, was able to offer useful information about approximate arrival times of the helicopter and ambulance. "Joe was monitoring central dispatch out of Elko," Barker said. "This information was reassuring to the family."

Flight paramedics assessed the grandmother and determined that a flight was justified based on her condition, Barker told the ARRL. "I was able to take her husband into the hospital in Elko to meet his wife. This is another testament to the value and utility of Amateur Radio, particularly on the lonely highways of rural Northern Nevada."

==> LOCAL HAMS AID RESCUE SQUAD TO SOLVE PUBLIC SAFETY INTERFERENCE ISSUE

When you live on a remote island with numerous mountains and valleys, communications can be tricky. Add interference that blocks the main communications frequency used by the local emergency rescue squad and you've got a disaster waiting to happen. That's what responders and residents on St John in the US Virgin Islands recently found themselves facing.

On June 12, the primary repeater output frequency for St John Rescue <http://www.stjohnrescue.org/> was completely blocked by a 2-tone AFSK signal that continued for more than a week. Because St John Rescue uses the frequency to dispatch, monitor and provide two-way communications during emergency calls, it was vital that the cause of the problem be detected and corrected.

According to Phyllis Benton, NP2MZ, a Public Information Officer in the ARRL US Virgin Islands Section, some members of St John Rescue are also members of ARES. With some additional help from the FCC, three hams -- Paul Jordan, NP2JF, Mal Preston, NP2L, and George Cline, KP2G -- set out to find the source of the interference.

The interference was not directly affecting operation of a second rescue repeater, Benton told the ARRL. "St John Rescue Chief Gilly Grimes and Paul Jordan, NP2JF, used handheld Yagi antennas to 'fox hunt' for the source of interference," she said. "To their surprise, the signal was being received off the back of the antennas and coming in very strong."

The source of the interference turned out to be 32 miles away from a tower on Mount St Georges on the island of St Croix. "The carrier frequency was just 7.5 kHz above the rescue frequency of 158.7525 MHz," she explained. "Upon closer inspection, the problem was isolated to a repeater that is part of the new US Virgin Islands territory-wide MPT 1327 trunking system. This transmitter was licensed for and was putting out 120 W with a pass band of 50 kHz and was being tested as the control channel."

Benton said that the second, unaffected repeater operates at an output frequency of 159.660 MHz, far enough away from the trunking frequency being tested to avoid being affected: "This second repeater serves areas not covered by the primary repeater. So, until the problem was resolved, a large part of St John was left without reliable rescue emergency radio communications. Once the source of the problem was identified, the interference was turned off on June 19."

To head off any future interference problems, the trunking system promoters have asked St John Rescue to change its current repeater frequencies to frequencies that theoretically would not receive interference from the trunking system. Benton said that St John Rescue is considering this request. -- Information provided by PIO Phyllis Benton, NP2MZ

==> BAKER, CLYBURN CONFIRMED BY SENATE: FCC AT FULL SLATE

On Friday, July 24, the Senate confirmed the nominations of Meredith Attwell Baker and Mignon Clyburn as FCC Commissioners. Both nominees appeared before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on July 15 to be vetted by the 25 members of the committee. Baker and Clyburn were nominated by President Barack Obama on June 25; no date has been set for their swearing in.

Clyburn will fill the unexpired term of Republican Deborah Taylor Tate, whose tenure as a Commissioner came to a close on January 3, 2009 when the Senate failed to confirm her nomination; Clyburn's term will expire June 30, 2012. Baker will fill the unexpired term of fellow Republican and former Chairman Kevin J. Martin who resigned in January 2009; her term will expire June 30, 2011. Baker will join Robert McDowell as a Republican on the Commission. Current Commissioner Michael Copps is a Democrat, as are Chairman Julius Genachowski and Clyburn. Only three

sitting Commissioners may be members of the same political party.

For much of this year, the FCC has been operating with just three commissioners. Once Genachowski was sworn in as chairman, Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein, a Democrat, left the FCC. He was confirmed by the Senate as the Administrator for the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS), also on July 24. Chairman Genachowski said that he is looking forward to "forging a strong partnership with Jonathan as the FCC and RUS collaborate to extend the benefits of broadband to all corners of the country."

Meredith Baker Attwell
Baker, the daughter-in-law of former Secretary of State James Baker, served as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and the Acting Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) from 2007 to January 2009. Named as Deputy Assistant Secretary in February 2007, Baker first joined NTIA as a Senior Advisor in January 2004, and also served as Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of International Affairs and on detail to the White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Baker spearheaded the coupon program for digital-to-analog converter boxes to help facilitate the transition to digital television (DTV). She has served on delegations representing the United States at major international telecommunications conferences and engaged in bilateral discussions with senior level officials from countries around the world. Before joining NTIA, Baker was Vice President at the firm of Williams Mullen Strategies where she focused on telecommunications, intellectual property and international trade issues. From 2000-2002, she held the position as Senior Counsel to Covad Communications. Before that, she was Director of Congressional Affairs at the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association (CTIA) from 1998-2000. In the 1990s, Baker worked at the US Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit in Houston and later at the law firm of DeLange and Hudspeth. From 1990-1992, she worked in the Legislative Affairs Office of the US Department of State in Washington, DC.

In her opening statement at her confirmation hearing, Baker spoke of the need for broadband technology. "Chairman Genachowski, who is off to a great start at the FCC, gave an inspirational introductory speech to the FCC staff on the day of his arrival," she said. "He stated that the promise of technology has never been brighter and consequently, the obligations of the Commission have never been greater. I share that view. The FCC holds the keys to unleashing the power of broadband, the new media landscape and true public safety interoperability. That responsibility is challenging but the rewards will truly make a difference in the life and future of every American" <http://commerce.senate.gov/public/_files/BakerStatement.pdf>.

Baker reminded the Committee that Congress has directed the FCC to develop and implement a National Broadband Plan by February 2010. "This

directive holds great promise for our nation," she said. "Not only do many aspects of our children's education and opportunities for lifelong learning depend on this directive, but so too does the next generation of health care delivery, smart energy grid development, and public safety interoperability. The FCC will play an important role in making sure that the right regulatory environment exists to incent companies to build out infrastructure faster, to reward innovation and investment and to encourage competition."

She also spoke about the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act that was introduced in March in the Senate; a companion bill was introduced in the House in early July <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/15/10964/>: "I believe we can reap great benefits from a spectrum policy that unlocks the value of the public airwaves in more efficient, transparent and flexible ways. The Spectrum Inventory bill that this Committee marked up last week shows important leadership and is a first step to increasing wireless broadband use in innovative ways such as secondary markets, leasing, and testbeds."

Chairman Genachowski congratulated Baker on her confirmation. "Meredith is a distinguished public servant who will bring unique insight and expertise to bear in the agency's policymaking process," he said. "I enthusiastically await Meredith's arrival at the FCC and the opportunity to collaborate with her on advancing our shared goal of improving the lives of all Americans. With the full slate of Commissioners on board, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on policies that advance innovation, investment, competition and consumer interests."

Mignon Clyburn
Clyburn, the daughter of House Majority Whip Representative James Clyburn (D-SC), has served on the Public Service Commission of South Carolina since 1998. The Public Service Commission regulates South Carolina's investor owned public utilities, including providers of telecommunications services. Before her election to that body, she spent 14 years as the publisher and general manager of The Coastal Times, a weekly newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1998, Clyburn was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly as a Commissioner to represent the Sixth Congressional District; she has been re-elected three times, chairing the Commission from 2002-2004. She is a past chair of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and is presently the chair of the Washington Action Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Clyburn also serves on NARUC's Audit Committee and Utilities Market Access Partnership Board.

Clyburn told the Committee that she will "work with each member of [the Commerce, Science and Transportation] Committee to ensure that the FCC is fair, open and transparent and that it protects consumers, encourages robust competition in the marketplace and champions technological innovation."

In her opening statement, Clyburn emphasized that "We also must ensure that all Americans have access to and can make productive use of the communications tools essential to making the American Dream a reality. Most notably, by providing universal, high-speed, high-quality affordable access to broadband we can establish the essential underpinnings for enduring national prosperity" <http://commerce.senate.gov/public/_files/ClyburnStatement.pdf>.

In speaking to the Committee, she said she was "a strong believer in the value of collaboration within and among levels of the government," and has "witnessed first-hand the benefits of and necessity for cooperation among local, state and federal governmental agencies. These partnerships are essential to achieving a uniform and predictable regulatory environment in which technological innovation can thrive."

Clyburn said that network operators should have "reasonable tools" to control what goes over their networks. She said that whether network neutrality regulations were needed would depend on whether the market was competitive. If so, there might be no need, but if not, it warranted consideration.

"It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Mignon L. Clyburn on her Senate confirmation," Chairman Genachowski said. "Mignon's deep commitment to public service, experience in state government, and entrepreneurial expertise will be invaluable assets to this agency. I enthusiastically await Mignon's arrival at the FCC and the opportunity to collaborate with her on advancing our shared goal of improving the lives of all Americans through communications. With the full slate of Commissioners on board, I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on policies that promote innovation, investment, competition and consumers."

==> FCC ISSUES CITATION TO PART 15 MARKETER

On July 28, the FCC issued a Citation to Hobby Lobby International (HLI) <http://www.hobby-lobby.com/> for marketing non-compliant radio frequency devices <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1626A1.pdf>. According to the Commission, these devices were in violation of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended and the Commission's Rules, as well as United States Customs and Border Patrol regulations.

On March 5, the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau sent HLI a Letter of Inquiry, initiating an investigation. The FCC wanted to know if the Tennessee-based company was marketing an unauthorized radio frequency device, specifically, the Pilot View FPV 2400 video transmitter <http://www.rcgroups.com/forums/showthread.php?t=858566>. According to the Citation, the FCC observed that the device was marketed on the retailer's Web site.

HLI responded to the Letter of Inquiry on May 7, telling the FCC that they began selling the Pilot View FPV 2400 video transmitter on May 12,

2008; they have sold 109 units of the device in the United States. In its reply, the company told the FCC that the manufacturer of the transmitter, Intelligent Flight, an Australian company, represented to them that the device was FCC compliant. HLI admitted they imported the transmitters, but did not file any FCC Form 740s for the imported units (before radio frequency devices may be imported to the United States, an FCC Form 740 [or the electronic equivalent] must be filed with the United States Customs and Border Patrol). According to the Citation, HLI stated that the last date that a transmitter was received was November 17, 2008, which is around the time that HLI's contact at Intelligent Flight stopped responding to their requests for further information concerning the device.

The FCC noted that HLI sent a unit to a test lab prior to receiving the Letter of Inquiry. "After receiving the Letter of Inquiry, HLI contacted the test lab to inquire about the test results and learned, for the first time, that the device is not FCC compliant," the Citation said. "HLI provide[d] a copy of the test results, which indicate that the device substantially exceeds FCC radiated emission limits. HLI state[d] that [they] discontinued selling this device as soon as it became aware that the device was not FCC compliant."

The FCC said "it appears that HLI violated Section 302(b) of the Act and Sections 2.803 and 15.209 of the Rules by marketing in the United States the Pilot View FPV 2400 transmitter. It also appears that HLI violated Section 2.1203 of the Rules by importing the Pilot View FPV 2400 transmitter without making the required import declaration."

HLI was warned that "if, after receipt of this citation, you violate the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules in any manner described herein, the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed $16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation." The company was given 30 days to respond to the Citation either through a personal interview at the Commission's Field Office nearest to your place of business or a written statement. HLI was advised that any response should specify the actions that they are taking to ensure that they do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing and importing of radio frequency equipment in the future.

==> SPACE SHUTTLE ENDEAVOUR TO DEPLOY STUDENT-BUILT SATELLITES

The space shuttle Endeavour returned to Earth on Friday, July 31, but before it left orbit, it deployed four student-built satellites, all with telemetry downlinks in the 2 meter (70 cm) amateur bands.

The twin spherical satellites -- named Castor and Pollux -- were designed by students in cooperation with the Naval Research Laboratory as part of the Atmospheric Neutral Density Experiment (ANDE) <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/science/experiments/STP-H2-ANDE.html>. Both satellites will transmit 1200-baud packet radio telemetry on 145.825 MHz. Hams are encouraged to submit telemetry reports with special QSLs and mission patches planned (check the ANDE Web site for

updates).

Castor and Pollux carry an FX.25 experiment that adds Forward Error Correction to standard AX.25 packets. The hope is that FX.25 will improve communication efficiency while still being compatible with existing packet equipment. The satellites also occasionally run GMSK/FX.25 modulation experiments at 9600 baud.

In addition to Castor and Pollux, Endeavour also deployed student satellites from the University of Texas and Texas A&M. The tiny picosatellites, christened BEVO-1 and AggieSat2, respectively, are part of an ambitious experiment that will ultimately culminate in autonomous docking of picosats in orbit. For this mission, however, BEVO-1 and AggieSat2 launched as one unit and then separated to collect position data and test a new NASA Global Positioning System receiver known as DRAGON.

BEVO-1 transmits Morse code beacons (20 WPM) or packet radio data telemetry at 437.325 MHz. AggieSat2 beacons at 436.250 MHz. The satellites primarily transmit 9600-baud packet telemetry when over the United States. As with Castor and Pollux, reception reports are welcome <http://paradigm.ae.utexas.edu/ops/>.

Orbiting at a relatively low altitude of 185 miles, these satellites should be easy to receive with standard FM transceivers and omnidirectional antennas. They should enjoy an operational life of 3-6 months and will likely re-enter the Earth's atmosphere within a year.

==> FUNcube CUBESAT PROJECT ANNOUNCED

AMSAT-UK <http://www.uk.amsat.org/> has announced a new amateur satellite project -- FUNcube <http://www.funcube.org.uk/> -- an educational single cubesat project that features a 435-145 MHz linear transponder for SSB/CW operation. According to AMSAT-UK, FUNcube will "enthuse and educate" young people about radio, space, physics and electronics. "The idea of FUNcube is to combine an educational project to excite young people with a simple linear transponder for radio amateurs to use with either legacy modes like CW and SSB, or, still to come, digital ones," said IARU Region 1 Satellite Coordinator Graham Shirville, G3VZV. Shirville is also affiliated with AMSAT-UK and ARISS-Europe <http://www.ariss-eu.org/>.

FUNcube's target audience consists of primary and secondary school students. The new satellite will feature a 145 MHz telemetry beacon that will provide a strong signal for the pupils to receive. "A simple receiver board is being developed," Shirville explained. "This can be connected to the USB port of a laptop to display telemetry in a fun way for the kids to learn. FUNcube will contain a materials science experiment, from which the school students can receive telemetry data that they can compare to the results they obtained from similar reference experiments in the classroom." FUNcube is the first cubesat designed to benefit this age group and is expected to be the first

British cubesat to reach space.

According to Shirville, FUNcube would be launched into a Sun Synchronous Low Earth Orbit (about 600-700 km above the Earth) using one of the many launch opportunities that exist for cubesat missions. According to QST Editor and satellite expert Steve Ford, WB8IMY, since FUNcube will be in a low orbit, amateurs from all around the world, including North America, should be able to access it.

FUNcube will carry a UHF-to-VHF linear transponder that will have up to 1 W and that can be used by radio amateurs worldwide for SSB and CW communications. Measuring just 10x10x10 cm and with a mass of less than 1 kg, it will be the smallest ever satellite to carry a linear transponder. The choice of frequencies will enable radio amateurs to use their existing VO-52 or DO-64 station.

A key feature of the satellite is the absence of an on-board computer. For reliability and maximum power efficiency, Shirville explained that the design has been kept as "straight-forward as possible," with satellite control being achieved using simple commands.

Shirville said the project should take less than a year to build: "Then we need to find a cubesat launch opportunity. We believe that this is an achievable mission with a relatively short timescale."

AMSAT-UK teams have provided hardware for more than 10 satellites over the past 35 years, including SSETI Express in 2005. They are presently involved with the development of hardware and software for a number of satellite projects, including the European Student Earth Orbiter (ESEO), P3E, SuitSat2 <http://suitsat2.org/>, the Columbus module on the International Space Station and also the GENSO Ground Station Network. "We hope that ESEO and SuitSat2 might have data formats with VHF downlinks that are also compatible with FUNcube-- this would make the educational potential even greater," Shirville said. -- Information provided by Graham Shirville, G3VZV

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Speckled by the mid-day Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: No sunspot activity this week, and if no sunspot appears today, July 31, the average sunspot number for July will be 5.1; this is down from June's average of 6.6. The monthly average of the daily sunspot number, January-July 2009, is 2.8, 2.5, 0.8, 1.3, 4, 6.6 and 5.1. The three-month averages for October 2008-June 2009 were 4.5, 4.4, 3.6, 2.2, 2, 1.5, 2, 4.2 and 5.2. This takes into account all the daily sunspot numbers for September 2008-July 2009, and those numbers are for the center months of each of those three month moving average periods. Sunspot numbers for July 23-29 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.8, 68.3, 69.1, 67.6, 68.4, 68.7 and 68.3 with a mean of 68.3. The estimated planetary A indices were 8, 6, 7, 3, 4, 4 and 2 with a mean of 4.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 5, 5, 1, 2, 3 and 2 with a mean of 3.7. Geophysical Institute Prague

predicts unsettled conditions July 31, quiet to unsettled August 1, quiet August 2-4, quiet to unsettled August 5 and unsettled August 6. For this weekend, the planetary A index is predicted at 7, which is slightly more active than it has been lately. A solar wind from a coronal hole would be the cause. We are hoping for a return of a recent sunspot group, but only a weak sunspot was spotted from European observatories this morning (July 31). For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "This Lime-tree Bower My Prison" <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=173248>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, there is an NCCC Sprint on August 1. The ARRL UHF Contest, the 10-10 Summer QSO Party and the North American QSO Party (CW) are August 1-2. Next week, there is an NCCC Sprint Ladder on August 7. The WAE DX Contest (CW) and the Maryland-DC QSO Party are August 8-9. The SKCC Weekend Sprint is August 9. The MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint are August 12. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 23, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 4, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE

Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* Amateurs Provide Communications Support During Gas Leak: On Friday, July 23 at 2 PM, Sacramento City CERT <http://www.sacramentocert.net/> activated Sacramento City Fire CERT and Sacramento County ARES for a large natural gas leak in South Sacramento. According to ARRL Sacramento Valley Section DEC and CERT Communications Manager Frank Reshke, N6SNO, a two block area was evacuated due to the leak. "Around 30 people came to a shelter that had been set up at a local church," he said. "This is where the CERT and ARES amateurs established a communications network with the Unified Command of Sacramento City Fire and Police and the Red Cross." Reshke said the incident lasted for four hours: "At 6:05 PM, the Unified Command allowed the evacuees back into the neighborhood." -- Information provided by Frank Reshke, N6SNO

* FCC Expands ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental License: On July 28, the FCC approved a modification that expands the ARRL's 500 kHz experimental license WD2XSH <https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/els/GetAtt.html?id=100140&x=.>. According to Experiment Coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, the expansion allows for more frequencies, more stations and portable operations. "We can now operate between 495-510 kHz," Raab said. "We were previously limited to 505-510 kHz. We will not be using 500 kHz itself so as to ensure that there is no conflict with the heritage stations on that frequency. The expansion also gives us the opportunity to expand the number of participating stations. We can now have 42 stations, where before we were limited to 23." Raab said that the expansion will now let participants operate within 50 km of their designated stations. This was not allowed under the previous terms of the experimental license. "Some stations have reduced operating bands to ensure that they do not interfere with nearby non-directional beacons (NDB). The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted the WD2XSH experimental license to the ARRL in September 2006 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/09/15/104/>. Find out more information on the ARRL's 500 kHz Experiment in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

* International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend: More than 300 lighthouses in more than 51 countries -- from Argentina to Wales -- will be on the air for 2009 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) <http://illw.net/> organized by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group (AARG) in Scotland <http://www.gm0ayr.org/>. The event, held for the 11th year in a row, takes place Saturday, August 15 0001 UTC-Sunday, August 16 2359 UTC. While not a contest, the ILLW is more of a QSO Party and Amateur Radio demonstration. The ILLW aims to raise public awareness of lighthouses and lightships and the need for their preservation and restoration, promote Amateur Radio and foster international goodwill. Stations at more than 40 US lights are expected to be on the air for the event, and several stations will identify with special event call signs. Participating lighthouse/lightship stations do not have to be inside the structure or on the vessel itself; a Field Day-type setup at or adjacent

to the light is sufficient. More information about the event, including a registration form, is available on the ILLW Web site <http://illw.net/2009_list.htm>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
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The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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332. Get next to nature

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-07-31 21:25:45 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h4vng6$2q63$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1942

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Operate from a Wildlife Refuge.

Details at ----> http://www.nwrweek-radio.info/index.htm

--
73, de Hans, K0HB
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Search my log at ---> http://dx.qsl.net/cgi-bin/logform.cgi?k0hb
```

333. July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-02 15:31:49 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <f8c75249-f75c-462a-a6e5-1dd6619f95ac@p15g2000vbl.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1943

These are the number of current, unexpired FCC-issued amateur radio licenses held by individuals on the stated dates, and the percentage of the total number of active licenses that class contains.

Percentages may not add up to exactly 100.0% due to rounding.

These totals do not include licenses that have expired but are in the grace period, nor do they include club, military and other station-only licenses.

Effective April 15, 2000, FCC no longer issued new Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced class licenses, so the numbers of those license classes have declined steadily since then.

Also since April 15, 2000, FCC has renewed all existing Technician Plus licenses as Technician. The number of Technician Plus licenses still in effect is now less than 1000, and by May 2010 they should all be gone.

It is therefore informative to consider the totals of the two classes, since the Technician class includes a significant number of Technician Plus licenses renewed as Technician.

On February 23, 2007, the last Morse Code test element, the 5 wpm receiving test, was eliminated as a requirement.

The ARS License Numbers:

As of May 14, 2000:

Novice- 49,329 (7.3%) Technician - 205,394 (30.4%) Technician Plus - 128,860 (19.1%) General - 112,677 (16.7%) Advanced - 99,782 (14.8%) Extra - 78,750 (11.7%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 334,254 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 674,792

As of February 22, 2007:

Novice - 22,896 (3.5%) Technician - 293,508 (44.8%) Technician Plus - 30,818 (4.7%) General - 130,138 (19.9%) Advanced - 69,050 (10.5%) Extra - 108,270 (16.5%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 324,326 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 654,680

As of July 22, 2009:

Novice - 17,362 (2.6%) Technician - 328,147 (48.7%) Technician Plus - 820 (0.1%) General - 148,270 (22.0%) Advanced - 61,060 (9.1%) Extra - 117,751 (17.5%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 328,967 (48.8%)

Total all classes - 673,410

Changes:

>From May 14, 2000, to February 22, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 26,433 Technician - increase of 88,114 Technician Plus - decrease of 98,042 General - increase of 17,461 Advanced - decrease of 30,732 Extra - increase of 29,520

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,928

Total all classes - decrease of 20,112

>From May 14, 2000, to July 22, 2009:

Novice - decrease of 31,967 Technician - increase of 122,753 Technician Plus - decrease of 128,040 General - increase of 35,593 Advanced - decrease of 38,722 Extra - increase of 39,001

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 5,287

Total all classes - decrease of 1,382

>From February 22, 2007, to July 22, 2009:

Novice - decrease of 5,534 Technician - increase of 34,639 Technician Plus - decrease of 29,998 General - increase of 18,132 Advanced - decrease of 7,990 Extra - increase of 9,481

Total Tech/TechPlus - increase of 4,641

Total all classes - increase of 18,730

73 de Jim, N2EY

334. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-02 20:02:23 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <QZjdm.293$Jg.46@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1944

> These are the number of current, unexpired FCC-issued amateur radio
> licenses held by individuals on the stated dates, and the percentage of
> the total number of active licenses that class contains.
>
> Percentages may not add up to exactly 100.0% due to rounding.
>
> These totals do not include licenses that have expired but are in the
> grace period, nor do they include club, military and other station-only
> licenses.
>
> Effective April 15, 2000, FCC no longer issued new Novice, Technician
> Plus and Advanced class licenses, so the numbers of those license
> classes have declined steadily since then.
>
> Also since April 15, 2000, FCC has renewed all existing Technician Plus
> licenses as Technician. The number of Technician Plus licenses still in
> effect is now less than 1000, and by May 2010 they should all be gone.
>
> It is therefore informative to consider the totals of the two classes,
> since the Technician class includes a significant number of Technician
> Plus licenses renewed as Technician.
>
> On February 23, 2007, the last Morse Code test element, the 5 wpm
> receiving test, was eliminated as a requirement.
>
> The ARS License Numbers:
>
> As of May 14, 2000:
>
> Novice- 49,329 (7.3%) Technician - 205,394 (30.4%) Technician Plus -
> 128,860 (19.1%) General - 112,677 (16.7%) Advanced - 99,782 (14.8%)
> Extra - 78,750 (11.7%)
>
> Total Tech/TechPlus - 334,254 (49.5%)
>
> Total all classes - 674,792
>
>
> As of February 22, 2007:
>
> Novice - 22,896 (3.5%) Technician - 293,508 (44.8%) Technician Plus -
> 30,818 (4.7%) General - 130,138 (19.9%) Advanced - 69,050 (10.5%) Extra
> - 108,270 (16.5%)
>

> Total Tech/TechPlus - 324,326 (49.5%)
>
> Total all classes - 654,680
>
>
> As of July 22, 2009:
>
> Novice - 17,362 (2.6%) Technician - 328,147 (48.7%) Technician Plus -
> 820 (0.1%) General - 148,270 (22.0%) Advanced - 61,060 (9.1%) Extra -
> 117,751 (17.5%)
>
> Total Tech/TechPlus - 328,967 (48.8%)
>
> Total all classes - 673,410
>
>
> Changes:
>
> >From May 14, 2000, to February 22, 2007:
>
> Novice - decrease of 26,433 Technician - increase of 88,114 Technician
> Plus - decrease of 98,042 General - increase of 17,461 Advanced -
> decrease of 30,732 Extra - increase of 29,520
>
> Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,928
>
> Total all classes - decrease of 20,112
>
>
> >From May 14, 2000, to July 22, 2009:
>
> Novice - decrease of 31,967 Technician - increase of 122,753 Technician
> Plus - decrease of 128,040 General - increase of 35,593 Advanced -
> decrease of 38,722 Extra - increase of 39,001
>
> Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 5,287
>
> Total all classes - decrease of 1,382
>
>
> >From February 22, 2007, to July 22, 2009:
>
> Novice - decrease of 5,534 Technician - increase of 34,639 Technician
> Plus - decrease of 29,998 General - increase of 18,132 Advanced -
> decrease of 7,990 Extra - increase of 9,481
>
> Total Tech/TechPlus - increase of 4,641
>
> Total all classes - increase of 18,730
>

>
> 73 de Jim, N2EY

Expired in the grace period could be significant. Are they counted as active or expired?

Interesting to note that we have actually seen growth during a sunspot minima, and loss after 9/11 and the focus on Homeland Security.

On my 1976 callbook, it says:
"280,919 US licensed radio amateurs!
19,120 new licenses included, issued
by FCC since the 1975 edition."

335. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-03 01:21:06 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <1ac788ec-d0b3-4aa7-b427-9ea2dfeb17fe@32g2000yqj.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1945

On Aug 2, 4:02 pm, "JB" <nos...@goofball.net> wrote:

> Expired in the grace period could be significant.
> Are they counted as active or expired?

Grace period licenses are not included in the posted numbers.

FCC uses the term "expired" WRT amateur licenses to mean licenses that have reached the end of their 10 year term without being renewed. A license that is in the grace period is defined as...an expired license that is in the grace period. Once the grace period ends, it's not a license anymore and is removed from the database.

IMHO, with online renewal and both ARRL and W5YI sending reminders of expiration, I suspect that most licenses that are in the grace period more than a month or two will not be renewed.

> Interesting to note that we have actually seen
> growth during a sunspot
> minima, and loss after 9/11 and the focus
> on Homeland Security.

What actually happened, in broad terms, is this:

After the 2000 restructuring, the number of US ham licenses grew until July, 2003. The total number of current, unexpired licenses held by individuals reached about 683,000. (Sorry, I don't have exact numbers for that date).

Then the numbers started to decline, until they were below the 2000 level. That decline continued until Feb 2007. Since then they have begun to increase again, and if the trend continues we will soon exceed the 2000 level.

73 de Jim, N2EY

336. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-03 16:18:24 UTC
From: Jeff Davis <ke9v@news.albasani.net>
Message-ID: <slrnh7e3be.jgm.ke9v@otaku.freeshell.org>
Source record: 1946

On 2009-08-03, N2EY@AOL.COM <N2EY@AOL.COM> wrote:
>
> Then the numbers started to decline, until they were below the 2000
> level. That decline continued until Feb 2007. Since then they have
> begun to increase again, and if the trend continues we will soon exceed
> the 2000 level.

Numbers are numbers I suppose but the obvious weak and unavoidable link in this sort of data is that it cannot include anyone who has died with an active license until that license expires. And given that the average age for radio amateurs has been increasing steadily, it's a good bet that there are tens of thousands of deceased hams being included in the license totals.

The other immeasurable data is how many licensees are no longer active at all yet religiously renew their license since it is free and can be done with almost no effort? That number could be enormous and may hint at why despite having nearly 700,000 names in the hopper, there are only some 150,000 members of the ARRL (not withstanding the naysayers).

If we make the same sort of assumptions as those in the life insurance business, and we suppose that the median age for licensees is now over 60, then between now and 2020 the number of licensees in the database will shrink to below 300,000 due to attrition.

That is assuming we see the same paltry gains in new licensees as is seen at the moment. So while there is some reason to be pleased that the numbers appear to be going up, there remains an inevitable precipice in front of us.

73,
--
jeff

337. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-03 21:10:39 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <4cge75hp0ij9p50s2jmhl66tes6bejbkko@4ax.com>
Source record: 1947

On Mon, 3 Aug 2009 12:18:24 EDT, Jeff Davis <ke9v@news.albasani.net>
wrote:

>The other immeasurable data is how many licensees are no longer active at
>all yet religiously renew their license since it is free and can be done
>with almost no effort? That number could be enormous and may hint at why
>despite having nearly 700,000 names in the hopper, there are only some
>150,000 members of the ARRL (not withstanding the naysayers).

Good point. I know many people in my town who have a license (mostly
Technician) who rarely use it to transmit. My wife Bonnie is one of
them. She got her Technician license 9 years ago when her husband at
that time, Paul, got the ham radio bug, and pestered her to get
licensed so they could "enjoy the hobby together." Bonnie used her
license a couple of times to keep in touch with Paul when he took
walks out in the desert behind their house. Then seven years ago Paul
died. Bonnie and I got together, and were married the next year.
Since then, she hasn't transmitted at all. But we have changed
mailing addresses a few times, and we both update our licenses on the
FCC ULS site. And, when her licence expires next year, no doubt she
will renew it. But I consider her inactive.

Dick, AC7EL

338. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 30 (Friday, July 31, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-03 21:14:45 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <ubke755aguhsb9ps2486juh9nmooae8cn0@4ax.com>
Source record: 1948

On Fri, 31 Jul 2009 16:49:54 EDT, "ARRL Letter Mailing List"
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org> wrote:

>==> LOCAL HAMS AID RESCUE SQUAD TO SOLVE PUBLIC SAFETY INTERFERENCE
>ISSUE
> [snip]
>On June 12, the primary repeater output frequency for St John Rescue
><http://www.stjohnrescue.org/> was completely blocked by a 2-tone AFSK
>signal that continued for more than a week. Because St John Rescue uses
>the frequency to dispatch, monitor and provide two-way communications
>during emergency calls, it was vital that the cause of the problem be
>detected and corrected.
> [snip]
>The source of the interference turned out to be 32 miles away from a
>tower on Mount St Georges on the island of St Croix. "The carrier
>frequency was just 7.5 kHz above the rescue frequency of 158.7525 MHz,"
>she explained. "Upon closer inspection, the problem was isolated to a
>repeater that is part of the new US Virgin Islands territory-wide MPT
>1327 trunking system. This transmitter was licensed for and was putting
>out 120 W with a pass band of 50 kHz and was being tested as the control
>channel."
> [snip]
>To head off any future interference problems, the trunking system
>promoters have asked St John Rescue to change its current repeater
>frequencies to frequencies that theoretically would not receive
>interference from the trunking system. Benton said that St John Rescue
>is considering this request. -- Information provided by PIO Phyllis
>Benton, NP2MZ

Why should St. John Rescue have to change its frequencies. They were
there first, and the new system is causing the interference.
Let the new system change its frequenciesy.
Also, who's going to pay for St. John's frequency change? They would
have to retune the repeaters and all of their mobile radios.
St. Johns shouldn't have to pay.

339. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-03 21:36:51 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <20b6c33b-c5bc-4f76-9055-3ff92b7aaf17@f37g2000yqn.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1949

On Aug 3, 12:18 pm, Jeff Davis <k...@news.albasani.net> wrote:

> Numbers are numbers I suppose but the obvious weak and unavoidable link i
n
> this sort of data is that it cannot include anyone who has died with an
> active license until that license expires.

Or until the ham's family reports the death to FCC with the required
paperwork. This is common, and is usually driven by the desire to keep
the SK's call active and "in the family".

> And given that the average age
> for radio amateurs has been increasing steadily, it's a good bet that the
re
> are tens of thousands of deceased hams being included in the license tota
ls.

I don't take it as a given that the average age of hams is increasing
steadily. I don't think anyone has a *scientific* number for the
average/median age for US hams.

Yes, one occasionally sees some number or other quoted for the "average
age", but not how it was derived. FCC doesn't have complete data
because they haven't consistently required birthdate info.

Sure, if one goes to a hamfest or club meeting, one sees a lot of folks
who are probably AARP-eligible. But are those folks a representative
sample? I know more than a few younger hams who don't show up at such
gatherings because they simply don't have the time.

But yes, there are probably a considerable number of hams in the
database who are SKs.

> The other immeasurable data is how many licensees are no longer active at
> all yet religiously renew their license since it is free and can be done
> with almost no effort? That number could be enormous and may hint at why
> despite having nearly 700,000 names in the hopper, there are only some
> 150,000 members of the ARRL (not withstanding the naysayers).

ARRL membership has been growing, too.

I suspect that there have always been a considerable number of
inactive-but-licensed hams. Particularly for the reasons you state:
renewing is free and easy to do.

> If we make the same sort of assumptions as those in the life insurance
> business, and we suppose that the median age for licensees is now over 60
,

> then between now and 2020 the number of licensees in the database will
> shrink to below 300,000 due to attrition.

But are those assumptions valid? Americans are living longer, having fewer kids, having them later in life, and the median age of the population as a whole is rising. IIRC, the median age for the US population was between 39 and 40 years of age as of the 2000 census, and had risen almost 5 years between the 1990 and 2000 census-takings. I wonder what the 2010 census will tell us?

> That is assuming we see the same paltry gains in new licensees as is seen at
> the moment. So while there is some reason to be pleased that the numbers
> appear to be going up, there remains an inevitable precipice in front of us.
>

Maybe. Or maybe the gains will continue. Remember that the license term has been 10 years for more than a quarter-century now.

As for paltry gains, if my math is right, the past 2-1/2 years have yielded growth of more than 2.8%. More important, the growth rate seems to be increasing. Imagine the possibilities when the sunspots come back...

73 de Jim, N2EY

340. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-04 03:07:36 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7dpmveF2cj605U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1950

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:

> Sure, if one goes to a hamfest or club meeting, one sees a lot of folks
> who are probably AARP-eligible. But are those folks a representative
> sample? I know more than a few younger hams who don't show up at such
> gatherings because they simply don't have the time.

But you cannot ignore the other end of the curve. How many licensed hams aren't showing up because they are too old to travel?

Maybe hamfest attendees and club meetings aren't a representative sample of the ham community. But if that's the case, it has always been the case. I can't claim scientific accuracy, but the age mix that I remember from a few decades ago was much younger, and that's through the eyes of a kid who thought anyone who was over 40 was tottering on the grave's edge.

It just seems intuitive to me that the population in the hobby is aging. In order for it not to be, you would need to recruit enough new hams who were young enough to offset the march of time for the rest of the population. A lot of new licensees these days are middle aged, rather than the teenagers we used to see. Although their age is lower than the current mean age, you have to have more of them to offset the inertia of incrementing everyone's age each year.

Not that there's much you can do about the issue even if you accept the fact that we may be marching off a cliff. I applaud the ARRL's efforts to interest young folks in the hobby, and I hope it's working better in other localities. I don't see a lot of success here.

73, Steve KB9X

341. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-04 04:14:03 UTC
From: Jeff Davis <ke9v@news.albasani.net>
Message-ID: <slrnh7f4vm.9ma.ke9v@otaku.freeshell.org>
Source record: 1851

On 2009-08-03, N2EY@AOL.COM <N2EY@AOL.COM> wrote:
>
> Yes, one occasionally sees some number or other quoted for the "average
> age", but not how it was derived. FCC doesn't have complete data
> because they haven't consistently required birthdate info.

That is true and any evidence is purely anecdotal. But we can make a few assumptions based on the bubble of the 1950s when the growth of the amateur service was meteoric. With the exception of those hams who were licensed as pre-teens, most of the others would be past retirement age by now.

The same is now becoming true of those licensed in the 60s so while I have no evidence or hard data, I think it is safe to say that the majority of licensed radio amateurs in the US are now over 60 years old.

You are correct that folks are living longer these days and that will no doubt work in our favor, but it is inevitable that we will begin losing hams in much greater numbers as we approach 2020.

> ARRL membership has been growing, too.

That has been a bright spot, in my opinion, but I only point it out because some League detractors use the old line that the ARRL can only attract 25% of licensed hams as an argument for how unpopular Newington is among the base. I'd argue that it better reflects the actual number of active radio amateurs since those who are no longer active would not likely maintain league membership and the most active among us invariably do.

> As for paltry gains, if my math is right, the past 2-1/2 years have
> yielded growth of more than 2.8%. More important, the growth rate seems
> to be increasing. Imagine the possibilities when the sunspots come
> back...

I'm all for growth since I think we are in for a big dip in the not too distant future, but I'm also not certain that there is any historic correlation between growth in the service and sunspot activity. And if there is, it might be bad news since Cycle 24 is now predicted to be the weakest cycle in a century.

We probably won't be able to bring new hams onboard at a pace that will match the attrition of the next decade, but that is no reason not to do all that we can -- and one thing is to begin thinking about how we are going to justify our continued occupation of radio spectrum with a lot fewer licensees.

It's a problem that Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu and the others are no doubt already thinking about too...

--
73 de Jeff

342. Re: The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 30 (Friday, July 31, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-04 04:31:14 UTC
From: Phil Kane <k2asp@kanafi.org>
Message-ID: <bvcf759s7jrcuq2ukg7i8dritde8c0vg9m@4ax.com>
Source record: 1852

On Mon, 3 Aug 2009 17:14:45 EDT, Richard <rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:

>Why should St. John Rescue have to change its frequencies. They were
>there first, and the new system is causing the interference.

The real problem is that the affected receiver is "wide band" and the new system is on a "narrow band" channel that was created when the FCC standards for the land mobile services were changed and the wide band channels were split into several narrow band channels. Wide band operations could continue unless harmful interference was caused or experiences.

This sort of problem is not new. Their have been such splits before, the one in the 1950s (60 kHz spacing going to 30 kHz spacing) resulted in the availability of lots of older commercial mobile gear for the ham community, and there was another one in the 1980s (30 kHz to 15 kHz) and this one came about in the late 1990s (15 kHz to 7.5 kHz). We're just starting to see the results in outlying areas that did not go to narrow banding earlier.

>Let the new system change its frequenciesy.

It doesn't work that way. The FCC stated in a case that I was involved in some 12 years ago that there is no protection for wide-band receivers. The whole land mobile community either knows this or has to be reminded of it on a regular basis.

>Also, who's going to pay for St. John's frequency change? They would
>have to retune the repeaters and all of their mobile radios.
>St. Johns shouldn't have to pay.

"Shouldn't have to" and "will" are two different things. The only reason that it popped up here was that hams were involve din the DF. In most cases, the agencies themselves do that sort of thing and professional spectrum managers (like my company) can find it on paper quite easily and verify it with a few phone calls. It's routine stuff.
--

73 de K2ASP - Phil Kane

>From a Clearing in the Silicon Forest
Beaverton (Washington County) Oregon

e-mail: k2asp [at] arrl [dot] net

343. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-04 13:42:27 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7dqs5pF2d29voU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1853

Jeff Davis wrote:

> You are correct that folks are living longer these days and that will no
> doubt work in our favor, but it is inevitable that we will begin losing hams
> in much greater numbers as we approach 2020.

I think that the issue is closer than that, and more significant. The problem is that as the ham radio population ages, a lot of the older hams become inactive. They're still licensed and that license is still counted in the statistics, but as far as the health of the hobby goes they're effectively gone.

>> ARRL membership has been growing, too.
>
> That has been a bright spot, in my opinion, but I only point it out because
> some League detractors use the old line that the ARRL can only attract 25%
> of licensed hams as an argument for how unpopular Newington is among the
> base. I'd argue that it better reflects the actual number of active radio
> amateurs since those who are no longer active would not likely maintain
> league membership and the most active among us invariably do.

I wonder. There are active hams who don't belong to the ARRL because they're too cheap or because they have policy disagreements with the organization. There are inactive hams who do belong to the ARRL just to keep up with a hobby that they want to get back into some day. I have no idea which segment is bigger, but I suppose that ARRL membership does correlate with the number of active hams.

> I'm all for growth since I think we are in for a big dip in the not too
> distant future, but I'm also not certain that there is any historic
> correlation between growth in the service and sunspot activity. And if there
> is, it might be bad news since Cycle 24 is now predicted to be the weakest
> cycle in a century.

I agree with both statements.

At least part of the growth in recent years has been from people who "always wanted" to get a ham ticket but were put off by the code requirement. This pent up demand will eventually be exhausted.

As for the magic of the sunspot cycle, what percentage of new hams get into the hobby so that they can work DX? Those are the ones that would be affected by knowing that band conditions are improving. My personal experience suggests that that is a small percentage.

> We probably won't be able to bring new hams onboard at a pace that will
> match the attrition of the next decade, but that is no reason not to do all

> that we can -- and one thing is to begin thinking about how we are going to
> justify our continued occupation of radio spectrum with a lot fewer licensees.

For HF, that isn't likely to be much of an issue since the commercial
and government users have found other alternatives, resulting in much
less demand for that bandspace. I wonder about VHF/UHF . . . since
there's so much more of it, maybe it will not be a huge issue.

> It's a problem that Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu and the others are no doubt already
> thinking about too...

The big players have protected themselves by making the ham radio market
only a tiny part of their sales. But you're right; with less customers
out there, the prices will go up and the amount of choice will go down.

73, Steve KB9X

344. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-04 22:27:02 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <ff9e34ba-ab68-406b-ae58-af98d7c28e7c@e27g2000yqm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1854

On Aug 4, 12:14 am, Jeff Davis <k...@news.albasani.net> wrote:
> On 2009-08-03, N...@AOL.COM <N...@AOL.COM> wrote:

> > Yes, one occasionally sees some number or other quoted for the "average
> > age", but not how it was derived. FCC doesn't have complete data
> > because they haven't consistently required birthdate info.
>
> That is true and any evidence is purely anecdotal. But we can make a few
> assumptions based on the bubble of the 1950s when the growth of the amate
ur
> service was meteoric.

Let's look at the US amateur population over time. The following
numbers have been posted by W5ESE on QRZ.com and elsewhere:

Year Population # Hams Hams as % of US Population 1913 97225000
2000 0.002% 1914 99111000 5000 0.005% 1916 101961000 6000 0.006% 1921
108538000 10809 0.010% 1922 110049000 14179 0.013% 1930 123202624 19000
0.015% 1940 132164569 56000 0.042% 1950 151325798 87000 0.057% 1960
179323175 230000 0.128% 1970 203211926 263918 0.130% 1980 226545805
393353 0.174% 1990 248709873 502677 0.202% 1997 267783607 678733 0.253%
2000 281421906 682240 0.242% 2005 296410404 662600 0.224% 2006
299291772 657814 0.220% 2008 303000000 658648 0.217%

Quoting W5ESE: "Many folks consider the 1950's as the "Golden Age of
Amateur Radio", but as you can see, the fractional part of the US
population that was licensed at that time was between 0.057% and
0.128%.

That is much lower than the 0.217% of the US population that are
licensed today."

I agree with W5ESE. Numbers I have gathered from old QSTs and Callbooks
agree with his numbers.

Note how the growth has varied with time, both in percentages and
totals. Oddly enough, the period of most-rapid-growth in terms of
percentage was the 1930s, when the number of US hams almost tripled,
despite the Great Depression.

> With the exception of those hams who were licensed as
> pre-teens, most of the others would be past retirement age by now.

But there were only 230,000 US hams in 1960. There's been a lot of
growth since then.

> The same is now becoming true of those licensed in the 60s so while I hav
e
> no evidence or hard data, I think it is safe to say that the majority of
> licensed radio amateurs in the US are now over 60 years old.

Well, I must respectfully disagree; we don't really know the median age
of US hams today or in the past. Nor do we really know how it compares
to the median age of the US population.

I'm not arguing with anybody's opinion, I'm just pointing out that the
numbers often tossed around are not derived from hard data.

> You are correct that folks are living longer these days and that will no
> doubt work in our favor, but it is inevitable that we will begin losing h
ams
> in much greater numbers as we approach 2020.

Maybe. I was first licensed in 1967 at the age of 13, and I hope to be
around for quite a while after 2020. Since 1967 I have seen a lot of
people younger than myself become licensed, too.

> some League detractors use the old line that the ARRL can only attract 25
%
> of licensed hams as an argument for how unpopular Newington is among the
> base. I'd argue that it better reflects the actual number of active radio
> amateurs since those who are no longer active would not likely maintain
> league membership and the most active among us invariably do.

IMHO there are four reasons hams don't join ARRL:

1) They're inactive and don't see the point of getting a mag and
mailings for something they don't do. 2) They don't like the ARRL for
some reason or other. Often it's a single policy issue, or something
done decades ago. 3) They equate ARRL membership with QST, and to them
the mag isn't worth $39 a year. Particularly when there's so much info
on the web now. 4) They have a specific focus in amateur radio (local
comms, QRP, Skywarn, EME, whatever) and ARRL is general-purpose
organization.

> I'm all for growth since I think we are in for a big dip in the not too
> distant future, but I'm also not certain that there is any historic
> correlation between growth in the service and sunspot activity.

It used to be that most new hams started out on the lower HF bands such
as 80 and 40 meters, making regional contacts. 500 to 1000 miles was DX
to a Novice, and staying up late at night to work it was par for the
course.

Nowadays most new hams start out on VHF/UHF with equipment that usually
limits them to relatively local QSOs. Those who venture to HF often
start on the higher bands (10-20 meters) because the antennas are
small, Techs and Novices have voice on 10 meters and that's where the
DX supposedly is. Trouble is, during sunspot minima those bands can be
completely dead. At best they're daylight bands and quite unreliable,

particularly with a basic station.

> We probably won't be able to bring new hams onboard at a pace that will
> match the attrition of the next decade, but that is no reason not to do a
ll
> that we can -- and one thing is to begin thinking about how we are going
to
> justify our continued occupation of radio spectrum with a lot fewer licen
sees.

Not to be a Pollyanna, but I've heard basically the same predictions
for 40+ years. For a whole bunch of reasons.

For example, OTs tell me that in the 1950s there were big concerns that
SSB and TVI would kill ham radio. In the 1960s, I recall many saying
that incentive licensing and the counterculture would be the end (how
many hams were there at Woodstock?). In the 1970s it was cb, repeaters
and the demise of many US equipment makers. In the 1980s it was
computers, in the 1990s the internet and cellphones. Etc.

Personally I think the biggest threats today are two:

1) Lack of publicity/visibility 2) Anti-antenna restrictions

As others have stated, I suspect that the most-threatened bands are our
VHF/UHF allocations, because they're relatively wide and most in demand
by other services. As much as we hated to lose 220-222, can we honestly
say that 222-225 became overcrowded because of that reallocation?

I don't think it's the number of licensees as much as the use of bands
that is the big thing. If we don't use a band, what does it matter how
many hams there are?

> It's a problem that Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu and the others are no doubt alre
ady
> thinking about too...
>
Maybe. Remember that in the past there were far fewer hams, and yet
there was a wide selection of manufacturers. The actual market for new
ham gear before about the 1970s was very small. This was because the
rigs were very expensive when you adjust for inflation, hams tended to
sell their old gear to other hams in order to buy new, and a lot of
hams converted surplus or built their own. Some years back Electric
Radio published the total number of amateur transmitters, by model and
year, that EF Johnson produced; I was amazed at how small the totals
were, considering how popular the rigs were in the 1950s and 1960s. (I
can post them if anyone's interested).

What has really changed, though, is the distribution of amateurs around
the world. Decades ago, the number of US hams was greater than all the
rest of the world put together. That's not true anymore, even if you
don't count Japan's numerous fourth-class licensees.

Think of what the future could be if and when amateur radio becomes even moderately popular in countries like China and India.

73 de Jim, N2EY

345. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-05 04:24:46 UTC
From: Jeff Davis <ke9v@news.albasani.net>
Message-ID: <slrnh7hgus.rk2.ke9v@otaku.freeshell.org>
Source record: 1855

On 2009-08-04, N2EY@AOL.COM <N2EY@AOL.COM> wrote:
> Note how the growth has varied with time, both in percentages and
> totals. Oddly enough, the period of most-rapid-growth in terms of
> percentage was the 1930s, when the number of US hams almost tripled,
> despite the Great Depression.

Percentage in this case is misleading since going from zero hams to one ham is a 100% increase. I wouldn't put much stock in numbers, growth or percentages prior to 1946 since those years included the start of amateur radio and the shutdown/restart from two world wars.

> For example, OTs tell me that in the 1950s there were big concerns that
> SSB and TVI would kill ham radio. In the 1960s, I recall many saying
> that incentive licensing and the counterculture would be the end (how
> many hams were there at Woodstock?). In the 1970s it was cb, repeaters
> and the demise of many US equipment makers. In the 1980s it was
> computers, in the 1990s the internet and cellphones. Etc.

True enough, folks have been crying wolf for decades. But the shift in technology that we have witnessed in the last decade has been all about communication and that has been a change from the previous distractions. No one needs to get an amateur license to enjoy a face-to-face video chat (with no additional charges) with people around the globe. Part of the reason that we have such a tough time interesting kids in our way of communicating is it must seem horribly quaint when you have a cell phone, laptop, and a high speed net connection.

Still, I do believe amateur radio has something to offer and that is camraderie and friendship. You can't well make a "friend" by making random cell phone calls and yet we do it with a random 'CQ' and that makes the amateur service special in my book. Not to mention the opportunity to experiment with radio and electronics. Getting those points across is indeed the challenge.

Having said that, I think come 2020 we will be looking at 300-350k licensees in the US. I'll be 61 then and having been licensed for 43 years then, I will be more than happy to have been wrong. :-)

Enjoyed the conversation Jim, the moderated group here is always a pleasure.

Vy 73 de Jeff

--
jld

346. Re: July 22 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-06 04:47:09 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h5dn61$1a6f$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1856

"Jeff Davis" <ke9v@news.albasani.net> wrote in message
news:slrnh7e3be.jgm.ke9v@otaku.freeshell.org...

>
> If we make the same sort of assumptions as those in the life insurance
> business, and we suppose that the median age for licensees is now over 60,
> then between now and 2020 the number of licensees in the database will
> shrink to below 300,000 due to attrition.
>

I hope that you're wrong, Jeff, but it's a slim hope.

I expect that a generation from now (a couple of sunspot cycles) the number of active (mark that word, "active) US amateurs will be under 10,000.

I moved to my current location 30-some years ago (in my late 30's). Joined two active radio clubs (MWA for contesting, TCDXA for DXing). At that time, most of the members of each club were about my age, or a little younger. Most members of each were very active amateurs.

Today, 30 years later, most of the members of each club are about my age, or a little older. Most are still very active, and both clubs are still very vibrant, but between the two clubs (combined rosters about 300, but perhaps really only about 200 hams due to dual memberships), there are only a handful of members (maybe 25) under age 55, and maybe 5 or 10 in late 30's or younger.

It's been a nice run.

73, de Hans, K0HB

347. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1669August 7 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-07 07:11:27 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090807000752.037369b8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1857
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1669 - August 7 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1669 with a release date of
Friday, August 7, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Restructuring comes to Tonga, 40 meter
expansion is delayed in France, four new hamsats are on-orbit but only
two are operational, a broadcaster is fined for alleged interference to
aviation radio and a long overdue editorial from us to you. What's it
about you ask? Find out right here on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm)
report number 1669 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESTRUCTURING: MAJOR CHANGES IN TONGA

Major changes are taking place in amateur radio in Tonga. This,
according to Paul Kidd, A-35-R-K, who tells the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter
that he recently had a meeting with that nations radio Licensing
Officer and the Technical Officer in the newly formed Department of
Communications. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, is here
with some of what A-35-R-K learned.

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In the past, amateur radio licenses in Tonga have been managed and
issued by a variety of different government agencies. That's now
changed with the creation of the Department of Communications which is
already building a website and plans to make license application forms
available online.

For newcomers, a 'Novice' or some other type of entry level license may
be created to encourage more activity. The formation of a club station
and licensing classes, possibly through the Tonga Maritime Training
Institute, was also discussed.

Licensing procedures for visiting operators and yachts in transit will
be simplified, especially for those entering the country somewhere
other than the capital. The new agency may make it possible for
visitors to apply on-line, however, they will still want to see an
applicant in person before issuing a license.

As to call signs, A35 single letter suffix calls may soon be issued to
resident Advanced Class licensees, and possibly to special event and
contest operations as well. A35 two letter suffix callsigns may be

issued to entry level licensees while 3 letter suffix callsigns will likely be issued to short-term visitors and transiting yachts.

In other changes, the permitted output power will increase to 400 watts to bring Tonga up to the same level that is authorized in New Zealand and Australia. The current 40 meter allocation of 7.0- to 7.1 MHz will be continued but 7.1 to 7.2 MHz operation will be permitted on a secondary basis as well. An allocation for 60 meters was discussed, but no action on this will be considered until further studies and consultations are made.

Maybe most important of all, A35RK says that Tonga now has a government Emergency Response Plan, and amateur radio participation in it is authorized. This, in conjunction with the Tonga Defense Force, the Tonga Meteorological Service, the Ministry of Civil Aviation, and the Tonga Red Cross. In all some very positive steps forward for ham radio in that nation.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQFM, in Reno.

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The Tonga government also intends to more carefully monitor amateur and maritime communications in an effort to reduce unlicensed operation and to insure compliance with regulations. (OPDX)

**

RESTRUCTURING: 7.1 - 7.2 MHz STILL OFF LIMITS IN FRANCE

If you plan to vacation in France, be sure to avoid 7.1 to 7.2MHz . At least for now. This is because French telecommunications authorities have not authorized that spectrum parcel in that country. Although the Department that controls frequency allocation in France, the AFN, has approved the use of that portion, it has yet to be signed off by a Ministerial Decree nor published in the official Journal.

** HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FOUR NEW MICRO HAMSATS ON-ORBIT BUT ONLY TWOP WORK

Four new ham radio satellites have been deployed from the Space Shuttle Endevour during the now concluded STS-127 mission. The new birds are named Castor, Pollux, BEVO1 and AggieSat but only two appear to be working.

Castor and Pollux are reported to be O-K. They will transmit on 145.825 MHz at 1200 baud AFSK and 9600 baud FSK. The transmitter uses the AX.25 protocol. Initial Keplarian elements to track them are posted on the AMSAT website.

BEVO1 and AggieSat2 were also ejected together from the Space Shuttle but it appears that they failed to separate. No signals have been heard from BEVO1, although beacon packets have been reported as coming from AggieSat2.

The current theory is that only partial separation occurred. And while the inhibit switches keeping the satellites powered off have been closed, allowing the satellites to boot up it is likely that the antennas did not deploy correctly. AggieSat2 transmits with 1watt of power so it is easier to hear, while BEVO1 only has 200 milliwatts out during beacon mode.

More is on the web at
http://www.amsat.org/amsat/archive/amsat-bb/48hour/msg72870.html (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: BETTER THAN USUAL PERSEID METEOR SHOWER ON AUGUST 12

Meteor scatter enthusiasts listen up. This year's Perseid meteor shower could be even better than usual.

According to NASA's Meteoroid Environment Office, a filament of comet dust has drifted across Earth's path. When Earth passes through it, sometime between 0800 and 0900 UTC on August 12th, the Perseid meteor rate could surge to twice its normal value.

Translated into ham radio language, this means more meteors leaving ionized trails as they burn up in the Earth's atmosphere and more chances for those involved in the meteor scatter mode to make contacts by bouncing signals off those ionized trails.

You can check spaceweather.com for details on this years Perseid meteor shower and tips on how best to observe it. (Spaceweather)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO REPORTS CITED IN CANARY ISLAND FIRE

Strong winds fanned forest fires on Saturday and Sunday August 1st and 2nd on the Spanish Canary Island of La Palma. According to news reports attributed to unnamed radio amateurs large plumes of smoke could be seen rising from the island's southern tip where fires were active on two fronts.

The reports said that firefighters were forced to retreat as flames raged out of control near two towns. Some 4,000 residents were evacuated from the area Saturday.

La Palma is located of the coast of West Africa, and is one of the least developed of the Canary Islands. At airtime news reports say that the fire has destroyed some 50 homes. No other information on the role ham radio operators may have played in rescue radio efforts was included in news reports from the region. (Published news reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NEVADA COUNTY THANKS HAMS

Back in the United States, several Nevada Amateur radio operators conducted a Simulated Emergency Test at the Panaca Nevada Fire Department on June 27 and 28. The test was used to demonstrate ham the radio operator's emergency communications capabilities using various modes of operation. This included Digital, Single Side Band and CW.

Rick Stever, head of Lincoln Co. Emergency Management, thanked Lee Hone K7NKH and Chuck Reifsnyder AD7OY for their help in organizing the ham radio aspect of the event. Stever also voiced his support to the members of the community who participated and who continue to support the county's Emergency Management. (Lincoln Record)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HIGH WINDS VS. HAMS ACROSS THE MIDWEST

Central Indiana hams felt like thy got dumped on this past week and for good reason. 4 to 8 inches of rain fell on south-central Indiana the morning rush hour and the noon hour.

Johnson county hams, just south of Indianapolis, were busy calling in reports of flooded streets as they had flashbacks to last years 100 year flood. That June 2008 event tore out bridges, ripped open a dam and flooded homes throughout the county.

In rural Brown county, high winds toppled trees, damaged homes and brought down power lines leaving thousands of residents in the dark and without phone service. EMA Director Richard Woehlecke, K9VM, said it was the worst flooding and wind damage that he had seen in a decade.

Further south in Jackson county, much heavier rains flooded county roads keeping some closed for most of the week. Some hams maintained stand-by communications throughout the incident.

And west if Indianapolis QIN Net manager Ivan Flint, W9ILF, is picking up pieces of radio equipment and his home after high winds ripped through the area. Flint's amateur radio and antennas were damaged as a result of the high winds.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker, W8ISH. (W8ISH)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC WARNS HLI ABOUT UNCERTIFIED VIDEO TRANSMITTER

The FCC has issued an official Citation to Hobby Lobby International for marketing what the agency terms as non-compliant radio frequency devices. According to the Commission, these devices called Pilot View FPV 2400 video transmitter exceeded the maximum radiated power limit for a Part 15 device.

Back on March 5th, the FCC's Spectrum Enforcement Division sent Hobby Lobby International a Letter of Inquiry asking if the Tennessee company was marketing an unauthorized radio frequency device through its website. The company responded by telling the FCC that they began

selling the Pilot View FPV 2400 video transmitter in May of 2008 and so far had sold 109 units of the device in the United States. Hobby Lobby also noted that the Australian manufacturer of the transmitter, Intelligent Flight, had represented to them that the device was FCC compliant.

The FCC noted that Hobby Lobby sent a unit to a Commission's lab for evaluation prior to receiving the Letter of Inquiry. After receiving the Letter of Inquiry, Hobby Lobby contacted the test lab to inquire about the test results. At that point it learned that the device is not FCC compliant. According to the Citation, Hobby Lobby says that the last date that a transmitter was received by it was November of 2008. Its also the time when it lost all contact at Intelligent Flight.

In the Citation, the FCC says that it appears that Hobby Lobby violated several sections of the Rules by marketing the Pilot View FPV 2400 transmitter in the United States. The company was then told that future violations of this sort could lead to monetary forfeitures of up to $16,000 for each violation or each day a violation continues. (FCC)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the AA4ED repeater serving Broward County Florida.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: BROADCASTER FINED FOR AVIATION BAND INTERFERENCE

The FCC has affirmed a $4000 fine issued against California based Playa Del Sol Broadcasters. This after it determined that a broadcast translator at its transmit site was causing interference to three frequencies in the aviation band. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

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On March 12, 2008, the FCC Enforcement Bureau's San Diego, California, office received a complaint of interference from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department regarding the aviation frequency of 122.875 MHz, in the Indian Wells, California area. The Sheriff's Department identified the interference as having the same audio as station KRCK on 97.7 MHz in Mecca, California. That's a station licensed to Playa del Sol

On March 13, 2008, an agent from the San Diego Office traveled to the Indian Wells and was able to detect the audio of KRCK on three separate frequencies in the VHF aviation band. These were 109.5 MHz, 122.2 MHz, and 136.1 MHz. The agent also determined that the three signals were emanating from the KRCK studio which is collocated with FM Broadcast

Translator station K238AK.

On March 14, 2008, the agent returned to the studio location of KRCK and inspected FM Broadcast Translator station K238AK. During the inspection, the agent requested that the translator station be taken off the air. By using portable measurement equipment, the agent determined that all three signals previously measured in the aviation band went off the air and returned whenever the K238AK transmitter was switched off. The agent determined that the measured signals on 109.5 MHz, 122.2 MHz, and 136.1 MHz, were spurious emissions emanating from station K238AK.

On July 31, 2008, the San Diego Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability in the amount of $4,000 to Playa. The notice found that Playa apparently willfully and repeatedly violated the Rules by failing to adequately attenuate by at least 60 db the spurious emissions from its translator.

In its Response, Playa argues that a forfeiture is not warranted in this case because it responded to the San Diego Office and addressed the issue "promptly and fully," and that the violation was not willful or repeated.

Now, after weighing the Playa del Sol response and in conjunction with the agency's Forfeiture Policy Statement the FCC conclude this past July 17th that Playa del Sol Broadcasting willfully and repeatedly violated Section 74.1236(c) of the Rules. Considering the entire record including the fact that Playa did not cease the unauthorized emissions until the San Diego agent confirmed its translator as the source of the interference, the FCC says that neither reduction nor cancellation of the proposed $4,000 forfeiture is warranted.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Playa del Sol Broadcasting was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT FOPLLOW-UP: FCC ISSUES $24000 NAL TO ALLEGED SHOPING CENTER RADIO JAMMER

The FCC has issued a $24,0000 Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Kevin W. Bondy, licensee of GMRS station WQGX752, in Encino, California. This for apparently willfully and repeatedly violating Section 95.183(a)(5) of the Commission's Rules by engaging in unlicensed radio operation and intentional interference to licensed radio operations; and apparently willfully and Section 95.115 of the Rules by failing to allow an inspection of his radio equipment by Commission personnel.

You may remember our story a few months ago when an agent from the Los Angeles FCC office used direction finding equipment to locate the source off interference to the shopping centers radio system. Using mobile direction finding gear the agent traced the signal to Bondy's car and accompanied by deputies from the Ventura County Sheriff's office confronted him. The FCC agent identified himself to Bondy and explained that a refusal to allow an inspection could result in a fine. Then the agent asked Bondy if he could perform an inspection of all radios in his vehicle. Initially, Bondy refused to allow an inspection, then later agreed to allow an inspection, then refused again. Bondy's refusal was witnessed by the Sheriff's Department deputies.

Now, after weighing all the evidence the FCC says that in its opinion that Kevin W. Bondy's actions warrant not only the base amount fine for each violation but an enhancement based an several circumstances. These include the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violations, and with respect to the violator, the degree of culpability, and history of prior offenses, ability to pay, and other such matters as justice may require. Applying the Forfeiture Policy Statement and the statutory factors to the case, the FCC concludes that Bondy is apparently liable for a $24,000 forfeiture.

As is always the case, Bondy was given the customary 30 days from the May 14th date of the liability notice to pay or to file an appeal. That date has long since passed. Meantime an informed source indicated to the CGC Communicator that Bondy may walk away free from the most serious criminal charges levied against him. CGC reports that its possible that a Ventura county prosecutor filed the wrong charges with a wiretapping charge being at the heart of the matter. The presiding judge dismissed that charge on July 23, along with another charge stemming from it. As of now, the only prevailing criminal charge against Bondy is one of making annoying phone calls, but the prosecution has the option to re-file its case. (FCC, CGC)

**

RADIO LAW: COMMENTERS TO FCC FEAR IBOC INTERFERENCE

Mentions of alleged interference due to increased FM In Band On Channel or IBOC digital radio m power levels are now cropping up in filed comments to the Federal Communications Commission. The FCC had asked about how to treat cases of alleged interference when it sought the next round of comments on the proposed voluntary FM IBOC power increase.

According to Radio World On-Line, approximately 32 of 41 comments filed oppose a blanket power increase for IBOC operations. Many urge the FCC to wait until after the tests being conducted by National Public Radio Labs are concluded before the agency makes a decision on the proposed power increase.

In its filing, NPR stated that the few commenters supporting the proposed blanket power increase have offered no new evidence or basis to justify the proposal. NPR calls this a significant omission, particularly given the failure of the prior testing to examine the impact of the proposed increase on analog SCA subcarrier services for the visually impaired and other SCA compatibility.

The comment period on this matter closed about three weeks ago. (RW)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: K0DQ FIRST EVER TO WIN ALL MAJOR DX CONTESTS SINGLE OP

A McLean, Virginia ham operating the 2008 CW weekend of the CQ World Wide DX Contest has perhaps become the only person ever to win single-op world championships in all six major ham radio DX contests John Scott Redd, K0DQ, on the air from Aruba as P40Q racked up over a million more points than his closest competitor in the Single-Operator Low Power Class

Redd got his first taste of contest victory back in 1966 as a Navy officer posted to Uruguay and operating CX2CO in the phone weekend of the CQ World Wide DX Contest. Redd worked his way up through the Navy ranks to Vice Admiral and became Commander of the Fifth Fleet. He then served as a civilian in the Iraq Coalition Provisional Authority and as Director of the National Counterterrorism Center before retiring in late 2007.

But ham radio and contesting were never far away, and operating from Mexico as XE1IIJ in the early 1970s, Redd won single-op world championships in the CQWW Phone Contest, the ARRL DX Phone and CW Contests and the CQ WPX Phone Contest. Thirty years later, when his professional life permitted a little more hamming time, he added the WPX CW crown as P41P, operating from P43P's station in Aruba, in 2002. The only prize that eluded him was the CQWW CW. That is until now.

Redd has already been inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame for his contesting achievements on top of all his other accomplishments. (CQ)

**

HAM HELP: FREE IARU LOCATOR MAPS

Everyone loves getting something for nothing so here's one for you. Free IARU locator maps are available in PDF format for downloading. Maps are available for many nations on all continents. The U-S map includes Hawaii and Alaska. You can find them at http://iarumapsrussia.webs.com. (G0GQK)

**

HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: QRP KITTS ON YOU TUBE

EA5BLP, has created a YouTube channel dedicated to QRP radios and their operation. The videos no there were recorded with a simple photo camera and mostly in a noisy afternoon of very poor propagation. QRP kits covered include the SW-20, Ten Tec 1330, Weber dual band, K-1, Heathkit hw-9 and others. The videos are at www dot youtube dot com/user/ea5blp. (Southgate)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ARRL / TAPR DCC IN SEPTEMBER IN CHICAGO

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the joint ARRL and Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Digital Communications Conference will again be held this year in the Chicago area. The dates are on September 25th to the 27th. This conference offers both technical and introductory presentations. The sponsors welcome the submission of both technical papers and presentations for the event covering all digital voice and data technologies. More information is on line at www.tapr.org. (TAPR)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ILLW THE WEEKEND OF AUGUST 15

Some 300 lighthouses and light ships representing 50 nations are set take part in the 2009 International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend and the total number is expected to exceed 400 by the time the event takes place. Organized by Scotland's Ayr Amateur Radio Group International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend will happen the weekend of Saturday, August 15th at 0001 UTC through Sunday, August 16 at 2359 UTC. More information about the event, including a registration form is available on the web at illw.net/2009. (ILLW)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: CELEBRATING SVARC AT 50

And words of congratulations to the Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club of Chillicothe, Ohio which is celebrating it's 50th anniversary this year. Established in 1959, over the years this club has served many amateur radio operators in Southern Ohio. And in recognition of this milestone the club will be sponsoring a special event station from 1400 to 2200 U-T-C on October 10th with stations will be operating on 10, 15 and 20 meters. Commemorative QSL cards will be available. More information is at www dot qsl dot net slash W8BAP. (KD8EAD)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MARINE CORPS BANS SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

The U.S. Marine Corps has banned MySpace, Twitter, Facebook, and several other social media sites from its networks. The ban which is effective immediately was instituted in response to a late July warning from U.S. Strategic Command.

According to news reports the Strategic Command told the rest of the military it was considering a Defense Department-wide ban on the Web 2.0 sites. This, due to what the government says are network security concerns.

The Marine Corps says it will issue waivers to the Web 2.0 blockade if a "mission critical need" can be proven. They will continue to allow access to the military's internal "SNS-like services." But for most members of the Corps, access to the real, public social networks is now shut off for at least the next 12 months. (Published news reports)

**

RADIO FINDINGS: OLDER AMERICANS PREFER NEW GADGETS

A study called: "Graying Gadgets: How Older Americans View Consumer Electronics." Says that 67% of those Americans over the age of 70 use a cell phone on a weekly basis. Also that 27% more likely to visit travel Web sites than the average Internet user, and 98% more likely to visit health sites. When asked about what top five consumer electronics they intend to buy in the next year, this demographic listed High Definition TV sets, laptop computers, cell phones, digital cameras or GPS devices.

Even though this group consisting of boomers and World War II-generation Americans grew up with radio, it was not listed in their top five items that they must have. For manufacturers of consumer goods this seems to bolster the argument for having an AM / FM radio included on cell phones.

More than 3,000 older Americans took part in the study in November and December 2008. Those interviewed ranged in age from 55 to 85. (RW)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: YOUR NAME HEADED TO MARS

Your name and call could be added to a microchip on the Mars Science Laboratory Rover heading to the red planet in 2011.

All you need to do is to go to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory U-R-L found in this weeks printed Newsline report and fill in the blanks. While there is no space for your callsign, many hams are simply adding it right after their last name.

The Mars Science Laboratory is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program. This is a long-term effort of robotic exploration of the red planet. The Mars Science Laboratory is a rover that will assess whether Mars ever was, or is still today, an environment able to support microbial life.

Again, to get your name on that Mars bound microchip is to http://mars9.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/participate/sendyourname/index.cfm (VK2SKY)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: EXTENDING THE WORLD WIDE WEB INTO THE FINAL FRONTIER

The University of Colorado at Boulder is working with NASA to extend the Interenet into the final frontier. The two are working to develop and test the new communications technology which will extend Earth's Internet into outer space and across the solar system.

Called Disruption Tolerant Networking, or DTN, the new technology will enable NASA and other space agencies around the world to better communicate with international fleets of spacecraft that will be used to explore the Moon, Mars and beyond in the coming decades. Or put another way, its expanding the Internet where no website has ever been before. (NASA)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING KARATE IN GERMANY IN DECEMBER

Members of Germany's Waldkirchen Radio Club will activate special event station DP3SSKW on CW and SSB through December 31st. This, to celebrate the 3rd Shito-ryu Shukokai Karate 2009 Worldcup. Skeds for 40 and 80 meters are possible via E-mail to DK7FK at b (dot) barth (at) pension-monika (dot) de. QSL via the bureau or direct to DK7FK. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: UK RAYNET SPECIAL EVENT AUGUST 9

>From the U-K word that Norfolk County RAYNET will be operational on Sunday August 9th with a special event station. GB4NCR, from Walcott in Norfolk on 80 meter SSB with a primary frequency of 3.663MHz. 40 meters will be used if 80 isn't open. QSL cards are available and can be send either via the bureau or direct to G4PSH with a stamped self-addressed envelope. (RSGB)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING THE SPANISH FORMULIA 1 RACE

Ham Radio will be a part of the Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix will take place in Valencia Spain from August 8th to 23rd. Commemorative stations AM5FUV, AO5FUV, AN5FUV EG5FUV and EH5FUV will take to the airwaves to help commemorate this years event. A special award will be

issued to those who will make at last 3 QSO's with 3 different event stations. The QSL Manager will be EA5FL. Further information can be found at QRZ.com. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: THE IOWA QSO PARTY IN OCTOBER

Back in the USA the 2009 Iowa QSO Party takes place on October 17th from 1400 to 2300 U-T-C. All band and modes are included but no contacts using repeaters or other relay devices are allowed. More information plus summary sheets are at www dot wa0dx dot org. (Via e-mail)

**

DX

In DX, word that 3B8FQ has received approval and will be active as 3B7FQ from St. Brandon Island, in August. He will depart Mauritius on the 10th of August and returns from St. Brandon on the 30th. Operation will be SSB and CW on 40 to 10 meters. This may be his last visit to 3B7 for the next five years. QSL via K5XK.

More than 12,000 contacts were made by VK9NI from Norfolk Island during mainly the RSGB Islands on the Air contest on July 5th and 6th. This, despite poor band conditions on 160 through to 10 meters. A nine-member team ran multiple stations using phone, CW and RTTY. If you worked them, QSL as directed on the air.

JM1LJS and JA3RAF will be active from Wallis Island between August 9th and 15th using the callsign FW1W. They plan to operate SSB, CW and possibly some digital modes on 40 through 6 meters. QSL direct via their home calls only.

A multi-national group is on the air from Swaziland until August 11th signing 3DA0SS. Operation is from both the Hawane Resort and a campsite near Manzini. Plans are to cover as many bands and modes as possible, including PSK31, RTTY and CW. QSL as directed on the air.

OH1TX and OH0RJ will be leading a three man team on a two day trip to Market Reef in mid-August. They expect to arrive on the `Rock' by noon on August 10th and to depart early on the 12th. They will use the call O-J-0Zero-Japan.

Lastly, CT1GPQ will be active from Timor Lorosae between August rd and the 3rd of October. His activity will be on 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters using SSB, RTTY and CW. The pilot station and QSL manager is CT1GFK.

Above from various DX news sources

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: AN EDITORIAL ON INTERFERENCE

And finally this week, we depart from the customary to bring you one of our infrequent editorials. This one deals with malicious interference, those who cause it and also those who seem to seek it out. Here's our Producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

--

Over the past two weeks we have been getting complaints that Newsline is jamming and in other ways harassing users of the frequency of 14.275 MHz on the 20 meter band.

For the record, we at the Amateur Radio Newsline are information providers only. We have no broadcast equipment and we air nothing ourselves. Our audio content is distributed over the Internet and by automated telephone and is formatted for retransmission specifically over VHF and UHF FM repeaters because that is where we believe that it belongs. It was never intended for retransmission on the High Frequency bands, however there are some hams who have chosen to do so for reasons known only to themselves.

If you are among those being interfered with on 14.275 MHz and live within the United States or its possessions, we suggest you obtain the call letters of the station that is doing the rebroadcast that is interfering with you and file a formal complaint with the FCC. It is the responsibility of that Federal Government agency to police the airwaves and only that agency can solve your problem.

That said, we would also question why anyone would even want to operate on or near 14.275 MHz. That is a frequency with a long history of being the home of numerous problems in our service.

With so many other frequencies available on 20 meters alone, there would seem to be no reason to congregate on 14.275 MHz other than to satisfy ones own voyeuristic needs. And in our humble view, that is not a good reason to tune a radio to that frequency.

If you cannot help yourself and feel a need to be there, please do not call or e-mail us to say that you were jammed or harassed. We will only respond that we warned you not to waste your time operating on or near 14.275.

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, and that how we see it in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

There is simple solution to the problem of 14.275 MHz or any other frequency like it. Just don't bother listening and forget those who are making it into a mess even exist. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

A reminder that next weekend, August 15th and 16th is the Huntsville Hamfest and the presentation of the 2009 Young Ham of the Year Award to Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB. We hope to see and meet many of you there.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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348. Re: Broadcaster fined for Aviation Band interference (from AR Newsline)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-07 14:02:44 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <uJCdnQ0hxu6DsOHXnZ2dnUVZ_g2dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1858

William M. Pasternak wrote:

> ENFORCEMENT: BROADCASTER FINED FOR AVIATION BAND INTERFERENCE
>
> The FCC has affirmed a $4000 fine issued against California based Playa
> Del Sol Broadcasters. This after it determined that a broadcast
> translator at its transmit site was causing interference to three
> frequencies in the aviation band. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:
>
> --
>
> On March 12, 2008, the FCC Enforcement Bureau's San Diego, California,
> office received a complaint of interference from the Riverside County
> Sheriff's Department regarding the aviation frequency of 122.875 MHz,
> in the Indian Wells, California area. The Sheriff's Department
> identified the interference as having the same audio as station KRCK on
> 97.7 MHz in Mecca, California. That's a station licensed to Playa del
> Sol
>
> On March 13, 2008, an agent from the San Diego Office traveled to the
> Indian Wells and was able to detect the audio of KRCK on three separate
> frequencies in the VHF aviation band. These were 109.5 MHz, 122.2 MHz,
> and 136.1 MHz. The agent also determined that the three signals were
> emanating from the KRCK studio which is collocated with FM Broadcast
> Translator station K238AK.

[snip]

>
> In its Response, Playa argues that a forfeiture is not warranted in
> this case because it responded to the San Diego Office and addressed
> the issue "promptly and fully," and that the violation was not willful
> or repeated.
>
> Now, after weighing the Playa del Sol response and in conjunction with
> the agency's Forfeiture Policy Statement the FCC conclude this past
> July 17th that Playa del Sol Broadcasting willfully and repeatedly
> violated Section 74.1236(c) of the Rules. Considering the entire
> record including the fact that Playa did not cease the unauthorized
> emissions until the San Diego agent confirmed its translator as the
> source of the interference, the FCC says that neither reduction nor
> cancellation of the proposed $4,000 forfeiture is warranted.

From Playa del Sol's perspective, this fine would be cheap at twice the
price. I was once a broadcast engineer, and although the salaries

weren't much to brag about, Playa del Sol would have to pay at least ten times that amount to employ a licensed engineer for a year.

Since the FCC eliminated the requirement to have a licensed engineer available, broadcasters have to trust the manufacturer's claims as to the quality of their equipment, and guesswork as to its proper installation and operation.

Yes, those grapes _were_ sour: but there's a serious point here. The broadcast industry used to be a career path for ham operators who were willing and able to take their skills and performance to the next level. Now, broadcasters no longer have a pool of independent, neutral expertise to rely on when setting up and operating RF devices.

W1AC

349. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 31 (Friday, August 8, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-07 19:33:03 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090807193057.46DFB32070@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1859
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 31
August 7, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + The ARRL Teachers Institute Wraps Up Successful Summer Sessions
* + Meredith Attwell Baker, Mignon Clyburn Sworn in as FCC
Commissioners: Now There Are Five
* + Look for the September Issue of QST in Your Mailbox
* + ARRL In Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?
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* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
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+ MFJ Acquires Cushcraft
+ Robert Wilson, AL7KK/VE7ZKK, Wins July QST Cover Plaque Award
Get Ready for the Perseids!

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
==========================================================

==> THE ARRL TEACHERS INSTITUTE WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SESSIONS

In 2004, the ARRL held its first Teachers Institute on Wireless
Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. That summer, nine
teachers came from across the country to learn how to bring this
exciting technology back to their classrooms. Six years later, 93
teachers from 29 states attended eight sessions of the ARRL Teachers
Institute. "The ARRL Teachers Institute continues to be a resounding
success," said ARRL Education Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME.
"These teachers, upon returning to their classrooms, will reach out to
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approximately 3000 students, using new approaches to instructing the science of radio through the many hands-on activities that they learned about during the Teachers Institute."

This year, the eight sessions of the Teachers Institute were held at various venues in Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, New Mexico and Ohio, with the last session taking place at ARRL Headquarters in Connecticut. "By holding the Teachers Institute sessions at various locations in the country, it gives them a national flavor," Spencer said. "This increased tempo of offerings was made possible with the addition of Miguel Enriquez, KD7RPP, and Nathan McCray, K9CPO, who joined me on the Teachers Institute instructor team."

Spencer said that a typical Teachers Institute session includes about 12 participants, with about half of those licensed amateurs. "The final section at Newington this year was unusual in that eight of the 11 participants were hams before the session," Spencer recounted, "but the three non-ham teachers studied for and passed their Technician licenses exams during the session, rounding out the roster with 100 percent hams!" The ARRL VEC expedited their applications so three new hams received their call signs that day. "These teachers had the unique experience of making their first ham radio contacts with the headquarters station W1AW, with the appropriate pomp and circumstance for such a momentous experience in a ham's career," Spencer said.

The ARRL Teachers Institutes provide a four-day, intensive in-service training opportunity for classroom teachers in basic electronics, the science of radio, bringing space technology into the classroom, microcontroller programming and basic robotics. For the first time, an advanced session of the Teachers Institute was added this summer. This session, made available to a few Teachers Institute graduates, included an expanded space in the classroom unit. This inaugural session, dubbed TI-II, focused on assembling and integrating the equipment and software required to setup a satellite Earth ground station, how to operate the ground stations to communicate with other hams via ham radio satellites, and finally how to intercept, copy, decode, interpret and use satellite telemetry in the classroom.

The Teachers Institute program is one component of the grant offerings within the Education and Technology Program (ETP) http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. This portfolio of resources is made available to schools and school teachers to advance the integration of wireless technology literacy and ham radio into school curricula. The ETP is possible only because of the generous donations from those who share in the passion of ham radio <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/education/2008/>. The Dayton, Ohio session of the Teachers Institute was supported by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA) <http://www.w8bi.org/>. The cost of the equipment provided to the teachers during the TI-II was offset by the generous support of Yaesu <http://www.yaesu.com/>.

The success of the Teachers Institute is best told by the participants themselves:

* "I highly recommend this inspiring and practical course -- it covered everything from basic electronics to satellite operations to robotics in ways that are directly applicable to many grade levels and subject areas. What a fantastic way to integrate knowledge and get students inspired to learn!"

* "It made me realize that if we can get students interested in radio and electronics technology, there are no limits to what they can achieve and develop. The TI was an eye opener, even for a long time teacher like me. It made me excited to learn again."

* "This program is perfect for a teacher who wants to learn basic electronics and wireless technology. This is a great workshop to put on your resume and a great investment in you and your students."

* "I thought that I knew the Parallax BOE-BOT before the TI, but I learned more than I previously knew during the TI. Before the session, I would not have gotten my Technician class license; I did so only because of the encouragement of the instructor and my fellow TI participants."

* "This was a great program and very productive use of time. The pace was good for varying levels. I found exciting new ideas for use in the classroom. The most important thing for classrooms: Having Fun!"

* "I can't wait to implement the ideas in my classroom that were presented during the TI."

* "ARRL: Keep up the good work!"

Information on the 2010 sessions of the ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology will be available in February.

==> MEREDITH ATTWELL BAKER, MIGNON CLYBURN SWORN IN AS FCC COMMISSIONERS: NOW THERE ARE FIVE

The Federal Communications Commission now has its full complement of five Commissioners. On Friday, July 31, Meredith Attwell Baker joined Chairman Julius Genachowski, Robert McDowell and Michael Copps. On Monday, August 3, Mignon Clyburn came on board.

Baker was sworn in on July 31 by Chairman Genachowski in a private ceremony in the Chairman's office. "I am grateful to President Barack Obama for nominating me -- and the United States Senate for confirming me -- to this important position and I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and working on policies and programs that will help build a 21st century communications infrastructure that can provide sustained economic growth, opportunity and prosperity for the nation, and for all telecommunications users," Baker said. "The FCC staff is well known for their expertise, professionalism and dedication, and I look forward to working together on these important issues. I am excited to be joining Chairman Julius Genachowski, and Commissioners Michael Copps, Robert McDowell, and Mignon Clyburn to ensure that our communications networks

and technologies serve the nation's needs and improve the lives of all Americans"
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-292494A1.pdf>.

Clyburn was sworn into office at 11 AM on August 3 by Senior District Judge Matthew J. Perry Jr in her home state of South Carolina. "I am deeply honored that President Obama and the United States Senate have entrusted me with the privilege of serving as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission," she said. "I look forward to working with the Administration, Congress, Chairman Genachowski, my fellow Commissioners and the incredibly talented FCC staff, to ensure that all Americans enjoy the tremendous benefits offered by modern communications. This is an exciting and challenging time in our nation's history. I am eager to hear from and work with all stakeholders to carry out, along with my colleagues, communications policies that protect consumers and encourage robust competition and innovation"
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-292513A1.pdf>.

Pointing out Baker's "broad and deep experience" and Clyburn's "years of state-level and private-sector experience," Chairman Genachowski welcomed both women to the FCC. "At this critical moment in history, I look forward to collaborating with my fellow Commissioners on ways that the agency can improve the lives of all Americans through communications."

Baker fills the unexpired term of fellow Republican and former Chairman Kevin J. Martin who resigned in January 2009; her term will expire June 30, 2011. Clyburn fills the unexpired term of Republican Deborah Taylor Tate, whose tenure as a Commissioner came to a close on January 3, 2009 when the Senate failed to confirm her nomination; Clyburn's term will expire June 30, 2012. Baker will join Robert McDowell as a Republican on the Commission. Chairman Julius Genachowski and Michael Copps are Democrats, as is Clyburn. Only three sitting Commissioners may be members of the same political party.

==> LOOK FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The September issue of QST -- our annual Emergency Communications issue -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things that today's Amateur Radio operator needs, with a special focus on Public Service. From product reviews to experiments to contesting, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Have you ever thought about becoming involved with Amateur Radio in your Section? ARRL Chief Operating Officer Harold Kramer, WJ1B, demystifies the ARRL Field Organization in his article "Your Place in the ARRL Field Organization." Mike Bryce, WB8VGE, knows that as hams, we need to be ready to go on a moment's notice. In his article "A Gel Cell Battery Charger for the Low Power Station," he tells how you can keep those batteries charged for the next time you get called into action. Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, has a proposal that builds on the groundwork of sending text messages via Amateur Radio in his article "Universal Ham

Radio Text Messaging Initiative."

QST Product Review Editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, reviews SPE's expert 1K-FA linear amplifier. According to Wilson, "With the SPE Expert 1K-FA, you can add power on 160 through 6 meters to your home or portable station. The built-in antenna tuner allows operation with a variety of antennas." QST Contributing Editor Phil Salas, AD5X, also takes a look at some antenna accessories from Array Solutions.

If you have been participating in phone contests for a while and are looking for a new challenge, CW contesting may be what you're looking for. But how does one new to CW -- or the owner of a rusty fist -- get started? ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, takes a look at that very question in "This Month in Contesting." The results of the 2009 ARRL International DX Phone Contest are in. Did you top your score from last year? How did your closest rival do? Also, find out about upcoming contests in Contest Corral.

Of course, there are all the columns and features you know and love in September QST: Hints & Kinks, The Doctor Is IN, How's DX, Vintage Radio, ARRL VEC Honor Roll, Hamspeak and more. Look for your September issue in your mailbox. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please see the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of July.

The ARRL Board of Directors held its 2009 Second Meeting July 17-18 in Windsor, Connecticut <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/24/10980/?nc=1>. The Board devoted the second day to reviewing and revising the ARRL Strategic Plan that was adopted in October 2006 <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/stratplan/ARRL_Strategic_Plan_October_2006.pdf>.

The Administration and Finance Committee and the Programs and Services Committee -- two standing committees of the ARRL Board of Directors -- met prior to the 2009 Second Meeting <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/10/10958/?nc=1>.

Three newly appointed Vice Directors -- Pacific Division Vice Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, Southeastern Division Vice Director Jeff Beals, WA4AW, and West Gulf Division Vice Director John Thomason, WB5SYT -- attended an orientation session at ARRL HQ just before the Board meeting <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/16/10968/?nc=1>.

The 2008 ARRL Annual Report reviews the major events of the year, documenting the renewed growth of the ARRL and the activities of the

Amateur Radio Service. It is available online <http://www.arrl.org/announce/annualreport/> and in print.

HR 2160, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, gained 11 new Congressional co-sponsors <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>.

QST Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, prepared an expanded look at new products -- including new VHF and antenna-related equipment, as well as many categories of accessories -- introduced at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention <http://www.arrl.org/files/qst-binaries/QS0709NewatDayton.pdf>.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, attended the United States ITU Association (USITUA) and the US Working Party 5B (maritime, aeronautical and radiolocation) meetings. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, attended meetings of US Study Group 1 (regulatory) and Working Party 7D (propagation).

W1AW/KL7 and NU1AW/KH6 represented the ARRL and IARU, joining more than 85 IARU HQ stations in the IARU HF World Championships <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/06/10947/?nc=1>.

Frank Piper, KI8GW, of Pickerington, was appointed Section Manager of the ARRL Ohio Section <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=9056>.

A special bonus section to help new amateurs choose a radio was added to the "ARRL Ham Radio License Manual" and made available for download to ARRL members <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/07/22/10975/?nc=1>.

W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, in conjunction with WA6ZTY on the West Coast, conducted a summer Frequency Measuring Test <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/06/15/10884/?nc=1>.

ARRL Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, received reports of inappropriate language on 20 and 80 meters, a possible jamming signal on 20 meters, unlicensed hunters using 2 meters, as well as a continuous carrier on 2 meters.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, and Lab Engineer Mike Gruber, W1MG, held a telephone conference with Laura Smith and the FCC's Kansas City Field Office regarding a powerline noise case in that state.

ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, together with Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, compiled an information packet for Division Legislative Action Chairs, Legislative Action Chairs and Legislative Action Assistants to use when speaking with Congressional members about Amateur Radio and HR 2160.

ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, attended the ARISS annual meeting in the Netherlands <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>.

The ARRL Executive Committee approved eight Education and Technology Program grants.

==> SCOTT REDD, K0DQ: THE BIGGEST GUN OF ALL

Vice Admiral John Scott Redd, K0DQ (US Navy, retired) has, throughout his 36 year military career, helped to make the world a safer place. >From postings in Uruguay to Iraq to serving as Commander of the Navy's Fifth Fleet as a naval officer, to becoming Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Redd has served his country with distinction. Earlier this year, President George W. Bush presented him with the National Security Medal in a White House ceremony <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/27/10594/> for "his more than 40 years of exceptional service to the Nation, strengthening its intelligence capabilities and improving national security." President Bush called Redd "an innovator, a strategic thinker, an inspirational leader and a dedicated servant to the Nation, respected for his vision, courage and integrity." But intermingled in his Navy career was Amateur Radio. This year, Redd, an active DXer and contester, became the first person ever to win all six of the major HF contests: The ARRL International DX Contests (SSB and CW), the CQ World Wide Contests (SSB and CW) and the CQ Worked All Prefix (WPX) Contests (SSB and CW).

"Ham radio was my 'Internet' in the 1950s," he told the ARRL. "Growing up in a very small town (Sydney, Iowa, population 1000), ham radio was my window on the world that generated an interest in far-away places and a vision to do something beyond my home town. That turned out to be the US Navy, via the US Naval Academy. That changed my life. The Navy is a technological service and virtually everything in the military has a technical dimension. Electricity, electronics and especially, the electromagnetic spectrum, were key aspects of most of my seagoing tours and, indeed, even my later policy assignments. Being comfortable with technology -- having built kits, antennas and the like -- and being zapped with 110 ac more than a few times -- gave me a leg up."

Redd started out in 1954 as a DXer as K(N)0DQI; he had earned DXCC by the time he turned 13, "which I audaciously proclaimed on my QSL cards as the youngest in the world (no one ever objected!)," he quipped. "Climbing the DXCC Honor Roll died as a dream when I went to the Naval Academy in 1962, so the logical thing was to turn to DX contesting. I operated contests as a multi-operator from W3ADO for four years then, as CX2CO in 1967 CQWW in Uruguay as a Fulbright Scholar. That was my first World Championship, competing in the M/S [multi-operator/single transmitter] category; that was also my last multi-operator experience."

In the early 1970s, Redd was on assignment at the Mexican Naval Academy. While there, he was "contesting consistently as XE1IIJ (with a number of aliases, including 6D1AA, 4C5AA and 6J9AA). In the 1971/2 contest season, I managed to win four of the five major contests: Both modes of ARRL DX, CQWW Phone and WPX SSB (there was no WPX CW in those days). I placed third in the world in CQWW CW. That set me on a personal quest to win all five (later six) of the major DX contests."

Redd pointed out that one of his many contesting highlights was working 10,000 QSOs in the 1973 ARRL International DX Phone Contest: "This was before 5BDXCC and 10 meter Novice phone and it was the first time that had been done -- it was also the last time I did a phone contest to any useful effect. I think that stands as the all time two weekend ARRL DX phone record (it's sort of like Roger Maris breaking Babe Ruth's home run record -- it gets an asterisk)."

As his naval career progressed, he didn't have the chance to contest as much as he had before, "other than occasional contests from Lenny Chertok's W3GRF (now a Silent Key), QTH. Most were Top 10 finishes, but I only won the US once -- the ARRL DX CW in 1986. My next contesting opportunity was A92Q in 1995 when I was the Fifth Fleet Commander, homeported in Bahrain. By that time, there was a CW WPX and that contest was my first contest in almost a decade (and the first one using a computer to log)."

Six years later, after Redd retired, Jim Neiger, N6TJ, introduced him to Jacky Oduber, P43P, and "goaded me into going down to Aruba," he told the ARRL. "My first contest from Aruba was CQWW CW in 2001 as P40Q. I would classify this as a 're-learning experience,' but it resulted in a #5 finish in SOABHP [single operator, all band, high power]. Seven months later, I went back to Jacky's for WPX CW and won the World SOABHP as P41P. So I had now won the World in the SOAB category in five out of six of the majors, but I was still missing a CQWW CW win for the Grand Slam."

Calling the 2002 CQWW CW the "Year of Aruba" -- the three top scores in the contest came from there -- Scott placed second. "In 2003, I was going back into government and preparing to go to Iraq, so there was no contesting," he recounted. "In 2004, I headed back to Aruba for the CQWW CW, but I came up short as #3 WW in SOABHP. In spring of 2005 -- just after having been nominated by President Bush to be Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) <http://www.nctc.gov/> -- I went back to Aruba and won CQ WPX CW in the Low Power category; I barely missed the SOAB LP all-time record. In the process, I found out I enjoyed the LP category. The next three years were completely driven by work at NCTC. I finally got back to contesting almost four years later when P40A's QTH was available for CQWW CW 2008. There were no amplifiers, so I entered SOABLP [single operator, all band, low power]: That resulted in the final piece of the puzzle falling into place."

Jeff Briggs, K1ZM, invited Redd to operate VY2ZM on Prince Edward Island for the ARRL DX CW Contest in February this year. "That was clearly right place (great low band antennas and near Europe) at right time (sunspot minimum), resulting in #1 W/VE, as well as top worldwide SOABHP," he told the ARRL.

"The 'bookends' for ARRL DX are almost four decades apart: The Mexican operations (winning the world on phone and CW in '72 and phone in '73) and, interestingly, winning W/VE from VY2ZM in this year's ARRL DX CW," he said. "That also turns out to have been the top worldwide score. In between, I've probably operated a dozen ARRL DX contests as W3GRF or,

more recently, W4RX (or K0DQ from W4RX's station), all near Washington, DC and at great disadvantage to the New Englanders. Most were Top 10, but the only one I won before this year was the 1986 one from W3GRF."

In 2008, Redd was inducted into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/05/16/10100/>. The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, and those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to Amateur Radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet.

Redd calls Amateur Radio "a magical hobby, even for me at 64. Although I would certainly have liked to have been more active over the years, absence did make the heart grow fonder and I still get a blast out of contesting, even though I feel like I'm always relearning old lessons which have receded in my subconscious."

==> FCC ISSUES CITATION TO WASHINGTON COMPANY FOR SELLING, IMPORTING UNAUTHORIZED RF DEVICES

On July 28, the FCC issued a Citation to The Spy Store <http://www.thespystore.com/> for marketing unauthorized radio frequency devices <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-1697A1.pdf>. According to the Commission, these devices were in violation of the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended and the Commission's Rules, as well as United States Customs and Border Patrol regulations.

On February 13, the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the Commission's Enforcement Bureau sent Spy Store a Letter of Inquiry, initiating an investigation. The FCC wanted to know if the Washington State company was marketing an unauthorized radio frequency device, specifically, the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer. According to the Citation, the FCC observed that the device was marketed on the retailer's Web site on September 4, 2008. The device jams signals emitted by a GPS transmitter, disabling a receiver from finding the location.

Spy Store responded to the Letter of Inquiry on March 2, telling the FCC that they began selling the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer on or about July 31, 2007; they have sold 69 units. In its reply, the company told the FCC that they began importing the devices beginning in 2007, with subsequent deliveries continuing into 2008, for a total of 90 units delivered. Spy Store told the FCC that "the importation of GPS-JM2 was discontinued once [they] became aware that the units were unlawful in the USA."

Even though Spy Store imported GPS-JM2 GPS Jammers on five different occasions, they did not file any FCC Form 740s for the imported units; before radio frequency devices may be imported to the United States, an FCC Form 740 (or the electronic equivalent) must be filed with the United States Customs and Border Patrol. The company admitted to the Commission that the device was not certified in accordance with FCC

Rules, but stated that the Chinese supplier advised them that "it was lawful to offer this unit for sale and as such, took no further efforts to determine if the device complied with the Rules."

The FCC noted that Spy Store explained that they "would not have offered, marketed or sold the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer had [they] known it was an unlawful device." Spy Store also told the Commission that they no longer offer or market any other jamming devices and have ceased all marketing and sales of the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer and have disposed all of the remaining units.

The FCC said "it appears that Spy Store violated Section 302(b) of the Act and Sections 2.803 and 15.205(a) of the Rules by marketing in the United States a radio frequency device not eligible for certification. It also appears that Spy Store violated Section 2.1203 of the Rules by importing the GPS-JM2 GPS Jammer without making the required import declaration."

Spy Store was warned that "if, after receipt of this citation, you violate the Communications Act or the Commission's Rules in any manner described herein, the Commission may impose monetary forfeitures not to exceed $16,000 for each such violation or each day of a continuing violation." The company was given 30 days to respond to the Citation either through a personal interview at the Commission's Field Office nearest to their place of business or a written statement. Spy Store was advised that any response should specify the actions that they are taking to ensure that they do not violate the Commission's Rules governing the marketing of radio frequency jamming devices in the future.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Bring back the friendship of the Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: We had some nice sunspot activity from July 3-10 -- and we were hoping for a return 27-28 days later -- but it never happened. Varying by latitude, the Sun rotates relative to Earth about every 27.5 days. If that same region was still active or the activity renewed, we might have seen something July 30-August 7, which is today. Instead, the quiet continues. Sunspot numbers for July 30-August 5 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68, 68.7, 68.1, 68.1, 67.4, 65.8 and 66.2 with a mean of 67.5. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 4, 3, 10, 4 and 6 with a mean of 5. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 4, 3, 2, 7, 4 and 5 with a mean of 3.9. The predicted planetary A index for August 7-11 is 5, 5, 7, 5 and 5. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by William Allingham's "Song" <http://www.potw.org/archive/potw363.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, there is an NCCC Sprint Ladder on August 7. The WAE DX Contest (CW) and the Maryland-DC QSO Party are August 8-9. The SKCC Weekend Sprint is August 9. The MMMonVHF/DUBUS 144 MHz Meteorscatter Sprint Contest and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint are August 12. Next week is the NCCC Sprint on August 14. The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, the North American QSO Party (SSB) and the SARTG WW RTTY Contest are August 15-16. On August 15, look for another NCCC Sprint, as well as the Feld Hell Sprint. The New Jersey QSO Party is August 15-17 and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is August 17. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 23, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 4, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* MFJ Acquires Cushcraft: On August 7, MFJ Enterprises <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/> announced they had purchased the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line from Missouri-based Laird Technologies <http://www.lairdtech.com/> effective July 31. According to MFJ, Cushcraft -- makers of HF/VHF/UHF vertical, beam and Yagi antennas for the Amateur Radio community -- will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire. "We are excited to have the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas product line alongside our other five companies," said Martin F. Jue, President and founder of MFJ Enterprises, Inc. "This product line increases our ability to offer our customers a wide range of antenna options at different prices. Customers will be able to choose

from Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas, Hy-gain and MFJ antennas through one source." MFJ purchased Hy-gain in 2000 the company also owns Ameritron, Mirage and Vectronics. Jue said that the Cushcraft line will bring more than 50 new products to MFJ's Amateur Radio product line. "We will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas name long into the future. Cushcraft Amateur Radio antenna product customers will appreciate the continued and expected top-quality manufacturing of this product in New Hampshire and the MFJ commitment to superb after-the-sale service and tech support in Mississippi," said Jue. The 120 page 2010 MFJ catalog will include the entire Cushcraft Amateur Radio antennas product line. MFJ has set up a special customer support line -- 662-323-5803 -- to handle Cushcraft antenna product technical support, parts requests and customer services.

* Robert Wilson, AL7KK/VE7ZKK, Wins July QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for July is Robert Wilson, AL7KK/VE7ZKK, for his article "A High Gain Single Wire Beam." Congratulations, Robert! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the August issue by Monday, August 31.

* Get Ready for the Perseids!: On the night of August 11 and well into the next day, Earth will make its annual passage through the bulk of the debris shed by a comet known as Swift-Tuttle <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/109P/Swift-Tuttle>. Much of the debris is composed of dust-sized grains, but when these fragments come plunging into our atmosphere they can create a dazzling meteor display. Not only are the meteors fascinating to watch, they also leave short-lived streams of ionized gas in their wake. As hams have known for years, these meteor trails are excellent reflectors of radio waves. The Swift-Tuttle meteor showers are known as the Perseids <http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/31jul_perseids2009.htm> because they appear to come from a point in the sky that lies within the constellation Perseus. This year's shower is forecast to be especially active because we're about to pass through a somewhat thicker filament of dust that boiled off Swift-Tuttle in 1862. If you own a 6 or 2 meter SSB/CW transceiver, you can get in on the action, bouncing your signals off Perseid meteor trails and making quick meteor scatter contacts over hundreds of miles, and possibly even as much as 1200 miles <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meteor_scatter>. Meteor scatter operation is particularly easy on 6 meters where 100 W and an omnidirectional antenna will do the job. On 2 meters a directional antenna (such as a multielement Yagi) usually yields better results. Some meteor scatter operators prefer to use SSB, making rapid exchanges of signal reports and grid squares. In recent years digital meteor scatter has been increasing in popularity. With the free sound-card-based WSJT software suite by Joe Taylor, K1JT, it is possible to make digital meteor scatter contacts almost any time of the day or night, not just during annual showers <http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/>. Most WSJT scatter

operators use a mode known as FSK441 and center their activities on calling frequencies at 50.260 and 144.140 MHz. They also announce their availability by using Web sites just as N0UK's Ping Jockey Central <http://www.pingjockey.net/cgi-bin/pingtalk>. So turn on your radio late Tuesday night and start listening. As the shower intensifies, you'll begin hearing bursts of signals. That's the time to grab the microphone (or keyboard) and get on the air!
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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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350. MDC QSO Party THIS WEEKEND!!!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-08 13:37:21 UTC
From: ARRL MDC Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <200908081336.n78DaNAC007275@oasis.novia.net>
Source record: 1860
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx,rec.radio.info

Don't miss out on the fun. Put our ARRL Maryland-DC Section on the air this weekend on HF, VHF and UHF. It runs from noon Saturday to midnight, then noon Sunday to 8 p.m.

For guidelines, suggested frequencies and rules please visit their website at: <http://www.w3cwc.org/2009rules.htm>.

Thanks to the Antietam Radio Association for handling the Maryland-DC QSO Party for the last twenty years. The time and effort that they have put into it exemplify the Special Service Club designation that they hold.

And thanks to the Anne Arundel Radio Club for taking on the QSO Party for the next decade. It's really great to have clubs willing to step up and keep a good thing going.

Look forward to working lots of you on the air this weekend!

73, Jim Cross WI3N
SM MDC

351. Send name to Mars

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-08 20:44:26 UTC
From: Rick T <rickw7rt@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <4A7DE271.5000807@yahoo.com>
Source record: 1861

Want to send your name and callsigns to Mars? Click on this.

http://mars9.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/participate/sendyourname/index.cfm

RT

352. Re: MDC QSO Party THIS WEEKEND!!!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-09 16:04:33 UTC
From: Ken AC4RD <ac4rd@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <fd182d96-2f65-47a9-a095-7b2d0ca99545@n2g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1862
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx

On Aug 8, 9:37 am, ARRL MDC Section <memberl...@www.arrl.org> wrote:
> Don't miss out on the fun. Put our ARRL Maryland-DC Section on the air
> this weekend on HF, VHF and UHF. It runs from noon Saturday to
> midnight, then noon Sunday to 8 p.m.

I hope it goes well for you and you have much fun!

> For guidelines, suggested frequencies and rules please visit their
> website at: <http://www.w3cwc.org/2009rules.htm>.

I"m a bit puzzled by this; the rules say "Phone and CW (includes
digital modes in CW) are allowed." About the only mode I *do* work
from home these days is PSK-31. That's a digital mode ... but it
utilizes AF frequencies, so I'm assuming it's not allowed for the
contest. Is RTTY allowed? That WAS basically a two-frequency CW mode
originally, right? So even though most of us now use AF and a
computer soundcard, RTTY would be allowed for the Maryland contest?

353. Re: MDC QSO Party THIS WEEKEND!!!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-09 17:53:58 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h5n2d7$3047$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1863
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx

"Ken AC4RD" <ac4rd@yahoo.com> wrote in message
news:fd182d96-2f65-47a9-a095-7b2d0ca99545@n2g2000vba.googlegroups.com...

>
> I"m a bit puzzled by this; the rules say "Phone and CW (includes
> digital modes in CW) are allowed." About the only mode I *do* work
> from home these days is PSK-31. That's a digital mode ... but it
> utilizes AF frequencies, so I'm assuming it's not allowed for the
> contest. Is RTTY allowed? That WAS basically a two-frequency CW mode
> originally, right? So even though most of us now use AF and a
> computer soundcard, RTTY would be allowed for the Maryland contest?
>

The rule is somewhat ambiguous.

As I read it, it would seem that a digital entry competes (and is scored) as
a CW entry.

--
73, de Hans, K0HB

354. Re: MDC QSO Party THIS WEEKEND!!!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-10 12:44:04 UTC
From: Ken AC4RD <ac4rd@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <7d13e965-7d27-4ffd-992a-7588298c67d2@e18g2000vbe.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1864
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx

> As I read it, it would seem that a digital entry competes (and is scored) as
> a CW entry.
> 73, de Hans, K0HB

I wondered about that, but as it turned out, I didn't spend much time
with the radio this weekend, and I'm a little close to Maryland (North
Carolina) for propagation, most of the day.

BTW, unless I am grievously mistaken (which does happen), I recognize
your name and call from the old Fidonet ham echos! Remember those
long-ago days? Nice to see you still active, Hans! 73!
--ken ac4rd

355. Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-10 18:30:07 UTC
From: Jeff Davis <ke9v@arrl.net>
Message-ID: <h5poqt$8f5$1@news.albasani.net>
Source record: 1865

The ARRL seems to be taking a fairly strong position with regards to amateur mobile operation in the face of a mountain of evidence suggesting that texting or cell phone use while driving is as dangerous, or more so, as drinking and driving:

http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/09/11012/?nc=1

No matter your position on the mobile issue, does it seem to you that by taking such a stand the ARRL is exposing itself to a boatload of liability the first time a mobile operating radio amateur plows into someone on the Interstate and the amateur operation is cited as a primary cause for the accident?

--
73 de Jeff

356. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-10 22:08:56 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7ebjvtF2f9tlmU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1866

Jeff Davis wrote:
> The ARRL seems to be taking a fairly strong position with regards to
> amateur mobile operation in the face of a mountain of evidence
> suggesting that texting or cell phone use while driving is as dangerous,
> or more so, as drinking and driving:
>
> http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/09/11012/?nc=
> No matter your position on the mobile issue, does it seem to you that by
> taking such a stand the ARRL is exposing itself to a boatload of
> liability the first time a mobile operating radio amateur plows into
> someone on the Interstate and the amateur operation is cited as a
> primary cause for the accident?

I think you said it all when you pointed out that there's a boatload of reliable data indicating that it's dangerous to use a cell phone while driving. Trying to operate a transceiver while driving certainly can't be any less dangerous. In spite of the fact that licensed amateur radio operators think they're completely capable of operating and driving at the same time, hams are people just like the rest of the population. Obtaining a license from the FCC does not improve ones ability to drive while distracted.

Trying to justify an exception to these laws based on emergency communication is simply ludicrous. Only a tiny fraction of in-motion mobile is actually related to an emergency. I think that this stance by the ARRL is simply wrong.

Yes, it fly in the face of years of tradition that one should not operate in-motion mobile. But when data showed that seat belts save lives, we started using them. When data showed that smoking was bad, we stopped smoking. For folks who are still driving without a seat belt, smoking, and ragchewing all at the same time, nothing I say is going to change your mind.

73, Steve KB9X

357. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-10 23:31:05 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <4a80adad$0$1673$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 1867

In article <7ebjvtF2f9tlmU1@mid.individual.net>,
Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>
>I think you said it all when you pointed out that there's a boatload of
>reliable data indicating that it's dangerous to use a cell phone while
>driving. Trying to operate a transceiver while driving certainly can't
>be any less dangerous.

Although I think there's some merit to the League's comment about
hams not talking and listening at the same time.

Patty

358. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-10 23:51:32 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9C63BFD053C30VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1868

In news:h5poqt$8f5$1@news.albasani.net Jeff Davis <ke9v@arrl.net> wrote:

> No matter your position on the mobile issue, does it seem to you that
> by taking such a stand the ARRL is exposing itself to a boatload of
> liability the first time a mobile operating radio amateur plows into
> someone on the Interstate and the amateur operation is cited as a
> primary cause for the accident?
>

I doubt that any liability could extend to an organization that simply
advocated a position.

Besides, this business of passing laws outlawing or allowing individual
activities, one at a time, is silly.

Any driver who contributed to an accident by being "distracted" or
"impaired" for any reason should be culpable.

If you're able to drive safely while talking on your rig while shaving
while eating a sandwich, well, more power to you :-)

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

359. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 06:16:22 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <iV5gm.1528$nh2.237@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1869

"Patty Winter" <patty1@wintertime.com> wrote in message
news:4a80adad$0$1673$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net...
>
> In article <7ebjvtF2f9tlmU1@mid.individual.net>,
> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
> >
> >I think you said it all when you pointed out that there's a boatload of
> >reliable data indicating that it's dangerous to use a cell phone while
> >driving. Trying to operate a transceiver while driving certainly can't
> >be any less dangerous.
>
> Although I think there's some merit to the League's comment about
> hams not talking and listening at the same time.
>
>
> Patty
>

Holding a cell phone to your ear keeps you from being able to turn your head to check your blind spots. This is the #1 thing I watch out for when I see another driver is on the phone and it has saved me again and again. A mic, you can just drop in your lap when you need to. Most people I have seen driving with hands-free systems and voice recognition dialing on their cell phones drive no worse than they normally do.

Aside from that, people who have problems with keeping their attention span primarily to the driving, shouldn't drive. You don't have to look at the mic, so it is actually potentially safer than having a passenger in the car. It is that simple. Would you outlaw passengers? This always seems to be goal of any discussions like this.

Some people seem to be intent on outlawing every thing that somebody else does because they know they can't do it right themselves. The insurance companies would have nothing to do if people got their license pulled for getting in wrecks rather than outlawing everyone else.

I have seen boatloads of data that gets overturned by boatloads of different data all the time. After 40+ years in the land-mobile industry, and rubbing elbows with many others in the community, experience with the real thing is a lot more telling. I can tell you that "texting" and typing on a computer keyboard certainly needs to be the job of the co-pilot.

360. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 06:17:03 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <0a3c01d2-87f5-403f-aca3-00f82ce45a90@l34g2000vba.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1870

On Aug 10, 2:30 pm, Jeff Davis <k...@arrl.net> wrote:
>does it seem to you that
> by taking such a stand the ARRL is exposing itself to a boatload of
> liability the first time a mobile operating radio amateur plows into
> someone on the Interstate and the amateur operation is cited as a
> primary cause for the accident?

Not really. All the ARRL is doing is advocating that amateur radio not be lumped into the same category as cellphones or texting.

More important, consider that amateurs have been operating mobile rigs for at least 75 years (including WERS mobiles during WW2). In all that time, can anyone cite a case - just one - where amateur radio operation was cited as a primary or even a secondary cause for an accident?

Meanwhile, consider that while cell phones have only been common for about 15 years, if that, the documented cases where cell-phone-use-while-driving has been a major contributing factor to accidents are so numerous that several states and municipalities have banned their use while driving, or required hands-free operation only.

73 de Jim, N2EY

361. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 09:28:09 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <8kp6l6-07m.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 1871

Jeff Davis wrote:

>> The ARRL seems to be taking a fairly strong position with regards to
>> amateur mobile operation in the face of a mountain of evidence
>> suggesting that texting or cell phone use while driving is as dangerous,
>> or more so, as drinking and driving:
>>
>> http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/09/11012/?nc=
>> No matter your position on the mobile issue, does it seem to you that by
>> taking such a stand the ARRL is exposing itself to a boatload of
>> liability the first time a mobile operating radio amateur plows into
>> someone on the Interstate and the amateur operation is cited as a
>> primary cause for the accident?

Disagreement? Bad press? Hard feelings? Quite possibly.

Liability? No, I don't think so. All they're doing is advocating (as
in "free speech" and "lobbying"), and in fact they're specifically
advocating that hams who do operate mobile do so only in ways which
don't put others at risk.

Granted, anybody can sue anybody for anything for any reason in this
country... but I think it'd be a very long stretch for someone to
succeed in winning a case against the ARRL based on their position and
statements.

Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:

>I think you said it all when you pointed out that there's a boatload of
>reliable data indicating that it's dangerous to use a cell phone while
>driving.

True.

> Trying to operate a transceiver while driving certainly can't
>be any less dangerous.

Well, it *can* be less dangerous (or so I believe). I think that this
is a good area in which to base actual legislation (or a decision not
to have legislation) on actual research and facts, rather than on
guesses and conjectures and opinions.

My guess (>>grin<<) is that it depends very much on what you're doing with
the ham radio.

If you're just listening - it's probably no worse than listening to
the car FM or AM radio.

If you're tuning around - it's probably about as dangerous as tuning your car FM radio, or trying to put a different CD into the player. Could be dangerous.

If you're talking on the mike - you're more distracted then when you're just listening, but unlike the tuning-around situation (or changing a CD, etc.) you don't have to take your eyes off of the road. Might be very distracting, might be no problem at all, depending on how engaged you are in the conversation. [The same is true with conversations with passengers in the car, by the way... anywhere from no-problem-at-all to OK-now-look-at-the-tree-you-made-me-drive-into.]

If you're trying to dial in a message to be transmitted via APRS, it's probably about as dangerous as cell/SMS-texting while driving (i.e. insanely dangerous IMO, please do *not* do this!)

>Obtaining a license from the FCC does not improve ones ability to drive
>while distracted.

Granted.

The real question is, just how *much* distraction actually results
>from various forms of equipment usage?

>Trying to justify an exception to these laws based on emergency
>communication is simply ludicrous. Only a tiny fraction of in-motion
>mobile is actually related to an emergency.

If ham radio transmitting while driving is to be outlawed because it's inherently too distracting and dangerous, then (as the ARRL points out) one should outlaw *all* similar transmission behavior by *all* drivers who are not actually involved in an in-progress emergency.

That would include public-safety land-mobile (i.e. most police radio use by the driver), private land-mobile (e.g. cab drivers, business radio use by delivery trucks), CB (truckers), FRS (by families in convoy), and so forth.

Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

>Yes, it fly in the face of years of tradition that one should not
>operate in-motion mobile. But when data showed that seat belts save
>lives, we started using them. When data showed that smoking was bad, we
>stopped smoking.

And, *if* actual *data* shows that typical land-mobile radio use does result in a high enough level of distraction to significantly raise the accident rate, then I'd agree that legislative action is called for.

I don't feel that simply taking data on cellphone usage effects, and applying these data willy-nilly to land-mobile/CB/ham use, is justified. I've seen some discussions which indicate that there are valid psychological reasons why cell-phone conversations are *extremely* distracting during driving... and that these factors do not necessarily apply to typical land-mobile / ham usage.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

362. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 10:04:57 UTC
From: Jeff Davis <ke9v@arrl.net>
Message-ID: <h5rfns$3s6$1@news.albasani.net>
Source record: 1872

On 2009-08-11 01:28:09 -0400, dplatt@radagast.org (Dave Platt) said:
>
> Disagreement? Bad press? Hard feelings? Quite possibly.

Good point about the bad press. I suppose if it were ever to happen that a person plowed into a school bus (heaven forbid) because they were distracted by operating their ham radio equipment, and the mainstream media got hold of the public letters sent by the president of the ARRL to the National Safety Counsel explaning how radio hams should be exempt from any laws preventing their use of radio equipment while driving ... it could get fairly ugly.

And I still wouldn't rule out financial liabilty, especially since these things tend to follow the money. And while suing the bejeezus out of WD9GCT might not yield much dough, suing the ARRL just might and of course that is the way lawyers think.

The points made about 'simplex' operation versus 'duplex' may very well be valid, but it's also a bit of a red herring since other modes of operation are available to the radio amateur.

A few years ago I was having an enjoyable CW QSO with a fellow in Wisconsin who had a great fist but every now and then it would fall apart. Eventually he apologized for his "bad" fist explaining that the highyway he was driving on had a lot of chuck holes and was in need of repair.

He was operating CW with a key strapped to his thigh -- while driving to work.

I like ham radio, and I like that guy ... but I don't want him operating a moving vehicle anywhere within a hundred miles of me or my family... even when all else fails...

73 de Jeff

363. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 13:13:21 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7ed931F2fljd9U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1873

Jeff Davis wrote:

> He was operating CW with a key strapped to his thigh -- while driving to
> work.
>
> I like ham radio, and I like that guy ... but I don't want him operating
> a moving vehicle anywhere within a hundred miles of me or my family...
> even when all else fails...

You have captured the essence of my feelings in two sentences.

There is a body of reliable data that indicates that distraction during driving causes accidents, no matter what is causing the distraction. It is obvious that operating a ham radio causes distraction. You can argue that the amount of distraction depends on what you're doing, or that similar distraction is caused in other services like public safety or land mobile, but the fact remains that operating a ham radio while driving increases the probability that you'll have an accident.

Does it increase the probability enough to lump it in with cell phone use and discourage the behavior by passing laws? I think that it does; I recognize that there are dissenting opinions.

But for the ARRL to defend the right of hams to distract themselves based on emergency communication is not logical. If they want to make the case that operating a ham radio is sufficiently different than using a cell phone that such laws should not apply, I still wouldn't agree but at least the premise would be logical.

I have seen several close calls related to people chattering away on cell phones while driving. I am convinced that the issue of distracted drivers having accidents is real, and I support laws that prohibit that behavior because I believe it to be dangerous both to the person who is doing it and to me. I don't buy that operating a ham radio is sufficiently less distracting that it should be exempted.

73, Steve KB9X

364. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 13:47:53 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h5rspg$21gq$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1874

"Jeff Davis" <ke9v@arrl.net> wrote in message
news:h5poqt$8f5$1@news.albasani.net...

> No matter your position on the mobile issue, does it seem to you that by
> taking such a stand the ARRL is exposing itself to a boatload of liability
> the first time a mobile operating radio amateur plows into someone on the
> Interstate and the amateur operation is cited as a primary cause for the
> accident?

I don't think ARRL would be liable for the action of any individual ham.

But I do believe two things:

1) Operating an amateur radio rig while driving is every much a distraction
as talking on a cell phone.

2) Amateur radio operators should not be eligible for "exemptions" not
available to the general public.

73, de Hans, K0HB

365. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 13:54:05 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <3dda3ffa-6f57-4759-b3f7-b7adc9998251@s31g2000yqs.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1875

On Aug 11, 2:16 am, "JB" <nos...@goofball.net> wrote:
> > Patty
>
> Holding a cell phone to your ear keeps you
> from being able to turn your head
> to check your blind spots. This is
> the #1 thing I watch out for when I see
> another driver is on the phone and it has
> saved me again and again. A mic,
> you can just drop in your lap when you need to.
> Most people I have seen
> driving with hands-free systems and
> voice recognition dialing on their cell
> phones drive no worse than they normally do.

That's part of it all right.

Another factor is that holding a cell phone has the person driving
one-handed all the time.

But the biggest difference is psychological. Telephone conversations
tend to be two-way (duplex), radio is almost always one-way, and the
distraction level is very different.

> Aside from that, people who have problems
> with keeping their attention span
> primarily to the driving, shouldn't drive.

That's true, but who decides such things? Almost all of the bad drivers
I know think they are good drivers!

> You don't have to look at the
> mic, so it is actually potentially
> safer than having a passenger in the car.

You don't have to look at the passengers while driving, either. I sure
don't.

> It is that simple. Would you outlaw
> passengers?

Some of them! (Actually, if a certain passenger is a distraction, I
pull over).

> This always seems to be
> goal of any discussions like this.
>

> Some people seem to be intent on
> outlawing every thing that somebody else
> does because they know they can't do it
> right themselves. The insurance
> companies would have nothing to do
> if people got their license pulled for
> getting in wrecks rather than outlawing everyone else.

I disagree.

The problem is that too many people are poor judges of how well they can do something. Particularly in real-life situations. After an accident is too late to do prevention. Pulling the license doesn't bring back the dead or instantly heal the injured. (And some folks will simply drive without the license!)

Where I work, we have a saying: "The safety book is written in blood".

> I have seen boatloads of data that gets
> overturned by boatloads of different
> data all the time.

Sure. But we have to go with the data we've got, and that data proves over and over that cell phone use while driving seriously reduces driving skills.

If someone did a lot of testing, they could probably find certain individuals whose driving skills with an illegal blood alcohol level were better than those of certain other individuals who were stone cold sober. IOW, exceptions that prove the rule.

But the law has to be written and applied the same for everyone.

>I can tell you that "texting" and typing on a computer
> keyboard certainly needs to be the job of the co-pilot.

Of course! And you would think that everyone would have the common sense to know that. But they don't.

That's the real issue - people's lack of self-awareness, good judgement and common sense. Maybe we can't legislate those things, but we can try to prevent some of the obvious bad results.

73 de Jim, N2EY

366. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 16:35:23 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <4a819dbd$0$1650$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 1876

In article <7ed931F2fljd9U1@mid.individual.net>,
Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>
>But for the ARRL to defend the right of hams to distract themselves
>based on emergency communication is not logical. If they want to make
>the case that operating a ham radio is sufficiently different than using
>a cell phone that such laws should not apply, I still wouldn't agree but
>at least the premise would be logical.

But they did: that article discussed the difference between simplex
(ham radio) and duplex (cell phone) operation. I agree with them that
that's a defensible difference.

It also ties into the comparison with having a passenger in the car.
If the passenger is an adult, they will likely notice when the driver
is in a tricky situation and stop talking. That's certainly what I do.
I'll stop talking in the middle of a sentence if I see that the driver
has to deal with some traffic that has suddenly bunched up, or some
other issue. A person on the other end of a cell phone can't see what's
happening and know to stop talking.

I actually have a non-driving example of this. A few years ago, I was
on the phone (with someone in Newington, coincidentally!) on a day when
we had had a small earthquake. Another one struck while the other person
was talking. I asked her to hang on, because I needed to gauge whether
it was big enough that I needed to move away from my desk. But she, of
course, had no idea that anything was happening and didn't hear my first
couple of requests to hold the conversation. So I was distracted from
dealing with the actual situation by trying to get the attention of the
person on the other end of the phone. Now, had I been in a car and some
dangerous situation had suddenly arisen, I would have simply dropped the
phone. But I still think this points to the greater distraction of phone
conversations during local "emergencies." And I think it's not as much
of an issue with simplex conversations.

Patty N6BIS

367. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 17:25:33 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <Jshgm.1705$Jg.361@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1877

"Patty Winter" <patty1@wintertime.com> wrote in message
news:4a819dbd$0$1650$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net...
>
> In article <7ed931F2fljd9U1@mid.individual.net>,
> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
> >
> >But for the ARRL to defend the right of hams to distract themselves
> >based on emergency communication is not logical. If they want to make
> >the case that operating a ham radio is sufficiently different than using
> >a cell phone that such laws should not apply, I still wouldn't agree but
> >at least the premise would be logical.
>
> But they did: that article discussed the difference between simplex
> (ham radio) and duplex (cell phone) operation. I agree with them that
> that's a defensible difference.
>
> It also ties into the comparison with having a passenger in the car.
> If the passenger is an adult, they will likely notice when the driver
> is in a tricky situation and stop talking. That's certainly what I do.
> I'll stop talking in the middle of a sentence if I see that the driver
> has to deal with some traffic that has suddenly bunched up, or some
> other issue. A person on the other end of a cell phone can't see what's
> happening and know to stop talking.
>
> I actually have a non-driving example of this. A few years ago, I was
> on the phone (with someone in Newington, coincidentally!) on a day when
> we had had a small earthquake. Another one struck while the other person
> was talking. I asked her to hang on, because I needed to gauge whether
> it was big enough that I needed to move away from my desk. But she, of
> course, had no idea that anything was happening and didn't hear my first
> couple of requests to hold the conversation. So I was distracted from
> dealing with the actual situation by trying to get the attention of the
> person on the other end of the phone. Now, had I been in a car and some
> dangerous situation had suddenly arisen, I would have simply dropped the
> phone. But I still think this points to the greater distraction of phone
> conversations during local "emergencies." And I think it's not as much
> of an issue with simplex conversations.
>
>
> Patty N6BIS
>
This is the essence of dealing with anything else in the cockpit. It all
has to be secondary to what is going on "out there". If that mindset isn't
drilled, trained, cultivated or however you get that unfailingly into the

brain, you have no business on the road because no amount of excuses or inanimate objects we can come up with to blame or outlaw can make up for a tragedy.

In my own experience, anything that takes more than 2 seconds of my eyes off the road is not worth doing on the road, and if there aren't 2 seconds to spare, it can wait. I can count to 2 without letting my mind wander to Strawberry Fields Forever, and I haven't lost any friends by asking them to repeat themselves.

368. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 17:27:38 UTC
From: poster@giganews.com
Message-ID: <R7SdnYITn-oVORzXnZ2dnUVZ_q-dnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 1878

N2EY@AOL.COM wrote:
> Sure. But we have to go with the data we've got, and that data proves
> over and over that cell phone use while driving seriously reduces
> driving skills.
>
> If someone did a lot of testing, they could probably find certain
> individuals whose driving skills with an illegal blood alcohol level
> were better than those of certain other individuals who were stone cold
> sober. IOW, exceptions that prove the rule.
>
> But the law has to be written and applied the same for everyone.

I guess I think the problem is we're concentrating too much on
preventing behaviors that *might* lead to dangerous activity and not
enough on preventing the dangerous activity itself.

For example (bear with me here!) DUI is not in itself dangerous.* Heck,
on any given night the vast majority of drunks on the road get home
without harming anyone or anything.

The dangerous activity is running red lights, driving way too fast,
moving out of your lane without regard for the presence of other
vehicles, etc...

Of course, being drunk makes you FAR, FAR more likely to commit one of
these dangerous activities. Being drunk is not an *excuse* for these
activities. I do not mean to suggest DUI is a good idea, nor that we
should make it legal.

But if your mom gets run over by someone blowing through a red light at
30 over the limit, should that person get off more lightly because they
were sober and just thought they were too important to obey traffic
signals?

IMHO we should be spending more resources patrolling our roads and
stopping those who are actually doing dangerous things, *regardless* of
why they're doing it -- and stop diverting those resources to people who
are doing things that *might* be dangerous.

--

Doug Smith W9WI
Pleasant View, TN EM66

* For the record, I don't drink and have never been pulled over for DUI.

369. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 22:40:40 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7eeaaoF2fru8mU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1879

Patty Winter wrote:
> In article <7ed931F2fljd9U1@mid.individual.net>,
> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:
>> But for the ARRL to defend the right of hams to distract themselves
>> based on emergency communication is not logical. If they want to make
>> the case that operating a ham radio is sufficiently different than using
>> a cell phone that such laws should not apply, I still wouldn't agree but
>> at least the premise would be logical.
>
> But they did: that article discussed the difference between simplex
> (ham radio) and duplex (cell phone) operation. I agree with them that
> that's a defensible difference.

The quote from Sumner is, "Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

It's "simply different"? What's inside that cell phone? A two-way radio. In both cases you've got two people talking to each other. If you compared the conversational style between two hams chatting on two meters and the same two people chatting on a cell phone, you wouldn't see much difference. Maybe years ago when one party would expound for 9.9 minutes and then hand it over to the other for his 9.9 minutes there was more difference, but even then you still had distraction.

As for this argument that there was never an issue before, how do we know this? How much has the population of vehicles capable of two-way radio communication grown since the cell phone came along? From perhaps .1% to 80%? I have no idea what the actual numbers are, but I know it's a huge difference. So now we're seeing the problem. Is this because two-way radio operation is safe, but bundle the radio into a cell phone and it becomes deadly? I don't think so; I think it's the population increase.

The bottom line is that using a ham radio transceiver while driving is distracting. Depending on what the operator is doing, it can be less distracting than using a cell phone, or a whole lot more distracting. I have seen hams operate HF while driving, including changing bands, picking a new frequency, and adjusting the tuning on both the transmitter and antenna, and that is absolutely more distracting than talking on a cell phone. I've also observed a fair number of people whose idea of operating mobile is to use their HT in the car.

A license from the FCC does not imbue special distraction-avoiding skill. If limiting cell phone use while driving is A Good Thing, then

the same should apply to use of ham radio.

73, Steve KB9X

370. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-11 22:58:21 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9C64B5D248FCCVeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1880

In news:7eeaaoF2fru8mU1@mid.individual.net Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
wrote:

> It's "simply different"?

Simplex.

Duplex.

Simply different.

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

371. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-12 00:36:42 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <b8e63d66-21a4-44c0-a97f-bff98303304d@a13g2000yqc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1881

On Aug 11, 1:27 pm, pos...@giganews.com wrote:

> I guess I think the problem is we're concentrating too much on
> preventing behaviors that *might* lead to dangerous activity and
> not
> enough on preventing the dangerous activity itself.

> For example (bear with me here!) DUI is not in itself dangerous.

Yes, it is.

Here's why:

First, one of the prime properties of drinking ethanol is behavorial disinhibition - meaning that a person's restraint and judgement tend to be impaired. That makes it more likely they will do something dangerous than if they were sober. (Some might say that behavioral disinhibition is a prime reason to drink ethanol, but that's a different discussion...)

Second, another of the prime properties of drinking ethanol is that it slows down reaction time and impairs driving skills and coordination. This is readily demonstrated by having a person drive a test route sober and then with varying blood alcohol levels. The result is that a driving situation in which a sober person would stop in time, swerve to avoid an obstacle, etc., can turn into an accident simply because the person's reactions and skills are impaired. This is true even if the person doesn't speed, doesn't run red lights, etc.

> Heck,
> on any given night the vast majority of drunks on the road get
> home
> without harming anyone or anything.

Yes, they do. But that doesn't prove DUI isn't dangerous. The vast majority of people who do all sorts of dangerous driving things, like running a stop sign, get away with it simply because all the conditions for a disaster aren't there at the same time.

> The dangerous activity is running red lights, driving way too fast,
> moving out of your lane without regard for the presence of other
> vehicles, etc...

That depends on how we define "dangerous". Most of those activities are only dangerous if other conditions are present. For example, if there are no other cars present, what's the danger of running a red light?

> Of course, being drunk makes you FAR, FAR more likely to
> commit one of
> these dangerous activities.

Exactly! And that alone makes DWI dangerous, at least by some
definitions.

> But if your mom gets run over by someone blowing
> through a red light at
> 30 over the limit, should that person get off more
> lightly because they
> were sober and just thought they were too important to obey traffic
> signals?

It depends on the case. Intent is a major factor in determining whether
an action is a crime, and how severe a crime it is. Because we know
that DWI unnecessarily increases the risk of a tragedy, DWI itself
becomes a crime.

For example, suppose A shoots B and B dies. A's intent could be the
difference between self-defense and first-degree murder.

> IMHO we should be spending more resources patrolling
> our roads and
> stopping those who are actually doing dangerous things,
> *regardless* of
> why they're doing it -- and stop diverting those
> resources to people who
> are doing things that *might* be dangerous.

Well, I don't know about where you are, but around here, I see far more
resources allocated to stopping dangerous behaviors (speeding, running
red lights, failing to signal, following too closely, etc.) than to
trying to find DWIs. The DWIs I do know about in this area are usually
the result of a traffic stop for another reason (police see somebody
blow through a red light, they pull the car over, turns out the driver
has had too many too recently. Driver gets charged with both the red
light violation and the DWI.)

Maybe it's different where you are.

--

Here's an analogy:

Here in PA we have annual auto safety inspections. One of the things
checked is tire wear; if your tires are down to a certain point, they
have to be replaced. If you're stopped with below-wear-limit tires, you
can get a ticket.

But in most situations worn-down tires aren't any more dangerous than
new ones. The difference only matters in wet, snow, ice and high-speed
conditions. Yet even if it's a dry summer day and you're driving slow,
you can get a ticket for worn-out tires because of the *potential*
hazard if it should rain or you take the car on the freeway.

73 de Jim, N2EY

372. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-12 04:26:25 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@nospam.invalid>
Message-ID: <7eectuF2e13soU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1882

On 11/08/09 14:47, Kï¿½HB wrote:
>
>
> "Jeff Davis" <ke9v@arrl.net> wrote in message
> news:h5poqt$8f5$1@news.albasani.net...
>
>>
>> No matter your position on the mobile issue, does it seem to you that
>> by taking such a stand the ARRL is exposing itself to a boatload of
>> liability the first time a mobile operating radio amateur plows into
>> someone on the Interstate and the amateur operation is cited as a
>> primary cause for the accident?
>>
>
> I don't think ARRL would be liable for the action of any individual ham.
>
> But I do believe two things:
>
> 1) Operating an amateur radio rig while driving is every much a
> distraction as talking on a cell phone.
>
> 2) Amateur radio operators should not be eligible for "exemptions" not
> available to the general public.
>

I don't know how it is generally in the US, but here in the UK there is
a specific law prohibiting the use of *hand held* phones whilst driving.

This law does *not* apply where hands-free equipment is in use, as long
as the phone itself is fixed in a cradle and not lying around loose
somewhere.

It also applies *solely* to phones and *not* to any other form of radio
communications, including two-way radio (of any type, business radio or
amateur, CB etc.) So I can quite legally use a hand-held microphone on
2m but not a hand-held phone.

Of course the police could quite easily charge me with the offence of
driving without due care and attention or even dangerous driving, but
for some reason they saw fit to introduce a law banning hand-held phones.

73 Ivor G6URP

373. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-12 10:41:17 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@nospam.invalid>
Message-ID: <7eechdF2gatjlU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1883

On 11/08/09 14:13, Steve Bonine wrote:
> Jeff Davis wrote:
>
>> He was operating CW with a key strapped to his thigh -- while driving
>> to work.
>>
>> I like ham radio, and I like that guy ... but I don't want him
>> operating a moving vehicle anywhere within a hundred miles of me or my
>> family... even when all else fails...
>
> You have captured the essence of my feelings in two sentences.
>
> There is a body of reliable data that indicates that distraction during
> driving causes accidents, no matter what is causing the distraction. It
> is obvious that operating a ham radio causes distraction. You can argue
> that the amount of distraction depends on what you're doing, or that
> similar distraction is caused in other services like public safety or
> land mobile, but the fact remains that operating a ham radio while
> driving increases the probability that you'll have an accident.
>
> Does it increase the probability enough to lump it in with cell phone
> use and discourage the behavior by passing laws? I think that it does; I
> recognize that there are dissenting opinions.
>
> But for the ARRL to defend the right of hams to distract themselves
> based on emergency communication is not logical. If they want to make
> the case that operating a ham radio is sufficiently different than using
> a cell phone that such laws should not apply, I still wouldn't agree but
> at least the premise would be logical.
>
> I have seen several close calls related to people chattering away on
> cell phones while driving. I am convinced that the issue of distracted
> drivers having accidents is real, and I support laws that prohibit that
> behavior because I believe it to be dangerous both to the person who is
> doing it and to me. I don't buy that operating a ham radio is
> sufficiently less distracting that it should be exempted.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X
>

If you want distraction, try driving a double deck bus at school
chucking out time. I guarantee that 70+ screaming kids is *far* more
distracting than *any* phone call or radio conversation..!!

73 Ivor G6URP

374. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-12 13:01:00 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7efso1F2f1us4U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1884

Bert Hyman wrote:
> In news:7eeaaoF2fru8mU1@mid.individual.net Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
> wrote:
>
>> It's "simply different"?
>
> Simplex.
>
> Duplex.
>
> Simply different.

Yes, certainly simplex and duplex are different.

But what the ARRL is saying is that there is a fundamental difference between communicating using mobile radio and communicating using a cell phone. Sumner is using the terms "simplex" and "duplex" to describe this. Since "simplex" and "duplex" are not common words generally used by the public, I conclude that he has picked them primarily to control the discussion. Rather than admit that they don't understand what the words mean, many people will just say, "Sure".

The issue is distraction to a driver. It makes no difference whether you can hear the other person while you're talking. Whether you're using a cell phone or a mobile radio, you're having a conversation with another person and fiddling with the actual equipment -- flipping open a cell phone to answer a call, or changing the frequency on the ham transceiver. In fact, there are a whole lot more buttons to push and potential distractions with the transceiver than with the cell phone.

If cell phone use while driving is an activity that needs to be discouraged, then mobile radio operation while driving should also be discouraged because they both result in distraction. To say, "The driver isn't distracted because he can't hear the other person while he's talking" is not logical. Saying it using fancy words like "simplex" and "duplex" does not make it more valid.

73, Steve KB9X

375. Hawaii QSO Party Reminder

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-12 17:15:16 UTC
From: Jeff Davis <ke9v@arrl.net>
Message-ID: <slrnh85o5k.j1i.ke9v@otaku.freeshell.org>
Source record: 1885
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx,rec.radio.info

Working Hawaii can be a challenge, especially for east coast (US) hams suffering from historically crummy HF propagation. Your chances of putting HI in the log gets much better when there are a bunch of Hawaiian hams calling you!

The Hawaii QSO Party contest will run from 07:00 UTC Aug 22, 2009 to 22:00 UTC Aug 23, 2009, for a total of 39 hours. Stations may work the entire contest period.

The rules have been changed to emphasize that this is a QSO party, to make as many QSL/able contacts as possible, emphasize the rare modes/bands and remove the county hunter aspect and even the playing field by offering the same point structure to stations, Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian. Contest period has been changed to allow for more dark time to support the low bands better. Exchange format is unchanged, but counties are not multipliers. Only band and mode multipliers exist.

More information can be found at:

http://tinyurl.com/hi-qso-party

Good luck!

--
73, Jeff KE9V

376. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-12 17:47:42 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <3eb23b6a-cd31-45f8-ad81-8ebbf117b413@s15g2000yqs.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1886

On Aug 12, 9:01 am, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:

> The issue is distraction to a driver.

I agree!

> It makes no difference whether
> you can hear the other person while you're talking.

I disagree.

It makes all the difference in the world.

In typical amateur simplex operation, the person who is talking
controls the conversation. S/he cannot be interrupted and can always
just drop it or say "wait".

> Whether you're
> using a cell phone or a mobile radio, you're having a conversation with
> another person and fiddling with the actual equipment -- flipping open a
> cell phone to answer a call, or changing the frequency on the ham
> transceiver. In fact, there are a whole lot more buttons to push and
> potential distractions with the transceiver than with the cell phone.

Actually not. At least not for the kind of mobiling most hams do.

Here's a personal example. I used to do quite a bit of 2 meter FM
mobiling. Never had an accident or a close call.

My 2 meter rig was an HW-2036 mounted under the dash. The only controls
were off-on-volume, squelch, offset and thumbwheel switches for the
frequency. The knobs were big and I could operate the rig without
looking at it by counting clicks and listening to the effects.

A typical mobile operation consisted of setting the rig to a local
repeater *while stopped*, then listening. The speaker meant I could
listen with two ears instead of one, and with both hands on the wheel.

If I wanted a QSO and the repeater was quiet, I'd wait for a time when
I was stopped and announce my presence as "N2EY mobile three,
listening". If I got a call, I'd just pick up the mike and talk when it
was safe to do so and have a QSO. If there was an ongoing QSO that I
wanted to join, I'd wait for a break and announce my presence. Same
resulty.

In all cases the other hams on the repeaters knew that mobiles might
not come back right away, might miss words or entire transmissions, or
might disappear for no reason because they needed to concentrate on the

road or had gone down into a bad spot, etc. No worries and no pressure. Most of them had enough operating sense to talk clearly and relatively slowly, to repeat important words and phrases and to structure the conversation in a way that made sense.

In amateur operation, there are lots of cues about when it's your turn to talk and such. Callsigns and prosigns and such help a lot.

Of course sometimes folks get carried away:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJCfUm21BsI

Now I have a cell phone, and it's a whole different world. I used to use it while driving, and while I never had a close call, I simply stopped because it was simply too distracting.

For one thing, when the cell rings, you have only a certain amount of time to answer before it goes to voicemail. The result is a mad grab to get the phone, see who it is and open it up.

When the phone is answered, many callers don't ask if you can talk, they just launch into a conversation. They expect your full attention to the conversation and often don't realize you need to focus on the road even when you tell them. Often the conversations are about important stuff like who has to be where when, which is even more distracting. People often expect instant back-and-forth on the cell, which takes a much different toll on the gray matter.

Cell phones also require that you drive one-handed all the time unless you have a hands-free setup. Even with one of those, you're only listening with one ear, which is different from a speaker. I suppose a voice-operated speaker box is the best option.

So now I just don't answer the cell while driving. If it rings and there's someone else in the car, I let them answer it. If not, I let it go to voicemail and call back when I can talk safely and am not driving. That is, if I even have the phone on while in the car.

> If cell phone use while driving is an activity that needs to be
> discouraged, then mobile radio operation while driving should also be
> discouraged because they both result in distraction.

I disagree, because the distraction is fundamentally different.

> To say, "The
> driver isn't distracted because he can't hear the other person while
> he's talking" is not logical.

It is logical to me!

Over

73 de Jim, N2EY

377. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-13 06:41:06 UTC
From: Paul P <REMOVE.paul@REMOVE.ppinyot.REMOVEcom>
Message-ID: <FfNgm.1841$nh2.1651@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1887

But I still think this points to the greater distraction of phone
> conversations during local "emergencies." And I think it's not as much
> of an issue with simplex conversations.

For some reason talking on the cell phone while driving seems to capture my full attention and concentration. Even when I am looking at the road. The mobile half duplex requires much less attention and/or concentration for me.

It is like you have to think when to reply or talk on the phone. I just wait for the other station to stop transmitting. Not much thought or less brain engagement.

Paul P

378. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-13 06:43:59 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <CCOgm.142642$zq1.101338@newsfe22.iad>
Source record: 1888

Steve Bonine wrote:

> Yes, certainly simplex and duplex are different.
>
> But what the ARRL is saying is that there is a fundamental difference
> between communicating using mobile radio and communicating using a cell
> phone. Sumner is using the terms "simplex" and "duplex" to describe
> this. Since "simplex" and "duplex" are not common words generally used
> by the public, I conclude that he has picked them primarily to control
> the discussion. Rather than admit that they don't understand what the
> words mean, many people will just say, "Sure".
>
> The issue is distraction to a driver. It makes no difference whether
> you can hear the other person while you're talking.

I disagree and I maintain that it certainly makes a difference. Being
able to hear the person on the other end at the same time I am talking,
is an additional distraction.

> Whether you're
> using a cell phone or a mobile radio, you're having a conversation with
> another person and fiddling with the actual equipment -- flipping open a
> cell phone to answer a call, or changing the frequency on the ham
> transceiver. In fact, there are a whole lot more buttons to push and
> potential distractions with the transceiver than with the cell phone.

Are you kidding? My cellular phone is filled with little tiny buttons
and it has a little tiny screen filled with little tiny menu items. It
doesn't have a flip cover.

I may or may not have to change the frequency of my mobile rig. Mine
has a outboard front panel which is mounted on my dash. I don't need to
look away from the road to see it.

> If cell phone use while driving is an activity that needs to be
> discouraged, then mobile radio operation while driving should also be
> discouraged because they both result in distraction. To say, "The
> driver isn't distracted because he can't hear the other person while
> he's talking" is not logical. Saying it using fancy words like
> "simplex" and "duplex" does not make it more valid.

If you don't like it, Steve, then don't operate your cellular phone or
your mobile amateur station. Don't tell me that I can't because then
you are on that slippery slope. There'll be those who tell us that we
can't eat that Big Mac, sip that coffee or Pepsi, use that GPS, change
that CD or even listen to that broadcast radio while moving. Me? I've

been operating mobile for over forty years and have never had an accident while doing so--FM, SSB or even CW.

Dave Heil K8MN

379. Re: Driving Distracted

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-13 15:45:52 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7eigraF2gjr7kU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1889

Dave Heil wrote:

> If you don't like it, Steve, then don't operate your cellular phone or
> your mobile amateur station. Don't tell me that I can't because then
> you are on that slippery slope. There'll be those who tell us that we
> can't eat that Big Mac, sip that coffee or Pepsi, use that GPS, change
> that CD or even listen to that broadcast radio while moving. Me? I've
> been operating mobile for over forty years and have never had an
> accident while doing so--FM, SSB or even CW.

The plural of "anecdote" is not "data".

There are millions of people who have driven millions of miles drunk and not had an accident, but laws were enacted banning DUI. I believe that laws banning cell phone use while driving are appropriate. Yes, it's a slippery slope, but all laws are a slippery slope. That's why our lawmakers are so well paid and respected <grin>.

In your opinion, mobile radio operation is less distracting than cell phone use. I can't prove that it is or isn't, and there will never be a scientific study on this narrow topic. That means that our lawmakers must make the decision based on input from us and organizations like the ARRL. That's a scary thought, but it's the way that the process works.

I believe that the ARRL's position on the issue is wrong. You don't. Reasonable people can agree to disagree. But I'd like to leave it at that. I am not "telling you" what you can or cannot do; I am expressing my opinion.

73, Steve KB9X

380. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1670 - August 14 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-14 06:17:46 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090813231452.03b33e28@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1890
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1670 - August 14 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1670 with a release date of Friday, August 14, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A circus performer will be the next tourist in space. Will he also be the next ham radio operator on-orbit? Also, South Africa's next ham-sat is set for a mid-September launch, 2 meters proves to be a good band for DX, the vanity call sign fee is going up and ham radio will help to coordinate National Wildlife Refuge Week. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1670 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CIRQUE DU SOLEIL FOUNDER TO BE NEXT TOURIST IN SPACE

A former stiltwalker and fire-eater will be the next mega-millionaire tourist to visit the International Space Station. This with word that Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte is shelling out a reported $35 million for his round-trip ticket aboard a Russian spacecraft to visit the orbiting outpost. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

--

Guy Laliberte will rocket into orbit from Kazakhstan at the end of September with an American astronaut and Russian cosmonaut as his travel mates. Like his predecessors, Laliberte will then spend more than a week at the space station.

At a news conference in Houston, Laliberte said that he will be like a kid in a candy store" and will be experimenting with zero-gravity tricks.

Liliberte explained that he is not a scientist, a doctor nor an engineer. Rather he sees himself as an artist and creator. As such he says that he will try to accomplish this mission with his creativity and what life has given him as a tool.

Laliberte assured reporters that he will not play with any fire in space, but he hopes to try some acrobatics in weightlessness and may teach his crewmates a card trick or two.

Lileberte described his life as a fairy tale and said watching men land on the moon 40 years ago on a black-and-white television in a campground in the middle of the forest was his inspiration. He said this taught him that all things are possible. Now he says that it's his turn to inspire the next generation.

What's not known is whether or not Laliberte will get his ham ticket and conduct ARISS contacts with those of us here on Mother Earth.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles.

--

For those of you who do not speak French, Cirque du Soleil translates into the Circus of the Sun. It's a truly amazing performance of acrobatic skill combined with dance and circus acts that once you see you will never forget. (Space Science Review)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUMBANDILASAT TO LAUNCH JUNE 15

South Africa's latest ham radio satellite called SumbandilaSat is now due to launch on September 15th. According to the Southern African Amateur Radio Satellite Association website the bird is already on its way to the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazikstan from where it will be carried into orbit on board a Russian Soyuz launch vehicle.

The amateur radio payload on board SumbandilaSat is made up of an FM voice transponder with an uplink in the 2 meter band and a downlink in the 70 centimeters. It also carries a store and forward voice digipeater and a voice beacon. These will be operating in conjunction with the University of Stellenbosch Software Defined Radio project that will share the on-orbit VHF receiver and UHF transmitter.

SumbandilaSat will also carry a Very Low Frequency or V-L-F radio experiment from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. More on this South African ham radio in space project is on the World-Wide-Web at www.amsatsa.org.za. (AMSAT-ZA)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: A $8000 PERSONAL HAMSAT

In the old days hams bought a kit to build a transmitter or a receiver. Now, in the 21st century we seem to have entered the age of the personal satellite with the introduction of Interorbital's TubeSat Personal Satellite Kit.

The new IOS TubeSat PS Kit is the low-cost alternative to the AMSAT-developed CubeSat. It has three-quarters of the mass (and volume of a CubeSat, but still offers plenty of room for most experiments or functions including those that enterprising ham radio groups might come up with. Perhapps a tiny D-Star repeater or linear translator. And

best of all, the price of the TubeSat kit includes the price of a launch into Low-Earth-Orbit on an IOS Neptune 30 launch vehicle.

There is one negative to the Tubesat concept. Since the these tiny satellites are placed into self-decaying orbits only 192 miles above the Earth's surface they will eventually fall back and burn up as they re-enter the atmosphere. On the other hand, being relatively short lived they will not contribute to any long-term build-up of orbital debris.

Launches are expected to begin in the fourth quarter of 2010. The total price of the TubeSat Kit including a placing it in orbit is only $8,000. More is on-line at http://spacefellowship.com/2009/08/01/interorbital-syatems-tubesat-personal- satellite-kit/ (VK4TJ)

**

RADIO LAW: VANITY CALL SIGN FEE RISING IN SEPTEMBER

The cost of a United States amateur radio vanity call sign is once again going up. On August 11th, the FCC announced that the cost of an vanity call will increase from $12.30 to $13.40 for its 10 year term. Now that notice has been published in the Federal Register, the increase will take effect in 30 days on September 10th. (ARRL, FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: ITS REALLY A MOBILE

A UK ham who thought he had found a novel way around local zoning restrictions is facing challenges from his neighbors. This, over 60 foot high telescoping tower complete with rotor and tri-band antenna mounted on a vehicle parked on his property.

Robert Dodson, G4RNK, is fighting calls to remove the tower that nests down to 27 feet from his back garden despite complaints from neighbors. Dodson claims he has not breached neighborhood planning regulations because the entire antenna system is mounted on a trailer,

Dodson was served an enforcement notice for its removal after he erected it without permission last September. At a planning inquiry on Wednesday, July 29th, Michael Matthews who is a lawyer representing Dodson outlined his grounds for appeal while senior enforcement officer Jamie Cooper upheld the authority's position. Both parties thrashed out legal issues surrounding the tower and argued whether it is a temporary or permanent structure, which would determine if it needed planning permission.

Also present at the hearing were several neighbors who called the mast an ï¿½eyesore' and claimed it interfered with their TV, radio and telephone signals. In rebuttal, Dodson said the entire installation had twice been tested and approved by U-K telecommunications regulator Ofcom.

A decision is expected to be made within the next month. (eHam.net)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCASTER DINGED $10000

The FCC has ordered Texas resident Radhames Severino to pay a $10,000 fine. This for allegedly operating of an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 101.5 MHz in the Houston area.

In its forfeiture order adopted on August 5th, the FCC noted that on May 26th the Commission's Houston Resident Agent Office of the Enforcement Bureau had issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to Severino for the alleged offense. To date, Severino has not filed a response to the order.

This case dates back to On October 23 and 25, 2006. That's when the FCC responded to a complaint about an unlicensed radio station in the Houston area. An agent from the Commission's Houston Office T-hunted the signal on 101.5 MHz to a building in the Houston area. On October 31, 2006, an agent from the Houston Office inspected the radio station located in suites K-M of the building, which was labeled as the home of the Iglesia Misionera Evangelistica Elohim church. The agent determined that Severino leased these suites, was responsible for the station, and was the pastor for the church.

On November 7, 2006, the Houston Office sent a formal Notice of Unlicensed Operation to Severino at his residence. The notice warned him that operation of an unlicensed radio station violated Section 301 of the Act and directed him to cease all unlicensed operations immediately. The letter also outlined the potential penalties for such a violation,.

But the FCC warning to Severino apparently went unheeded. On January 30, March 12, and October 15, 2008, agents from the Houston Office, again T-hunted the signal on 101.5 MHz to Severino leased suites. This in turn lead to the issuance of a $10,000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Severino to which he never responded. As a result, Severino was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST VIDEO ON-LINE

If you want to be at this years Huntsville Hamfest but cannot make the trip Tom Medlin W5KUB, will be able to take you there vicariously. That's because Tom bringing it direct to your computer screen through the magic of streaming video over the Internet.

Tom tells Newsline that he will be going live Friday morning August 14th at 08:00 Central time. This, to broadcast the 2009 Huntsville Hamfest on his world wide internet site that this year will feature a chat room for hams to discuss the convention with others. Tom also plans to give away prizes to viewers almost every hour during this live event.

Included in this years coverage will be the presentation of the Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year award to Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB. That takes place on Saturday afternoon, August 15th.

Tom's video streaming website is very easy to find. Simply type in w5kub.com or wa5kub.com to your web browser without the www and it should take you right these.

The bottom line: If you cannot make the trip to Huntsville this year, then tune in on w5kub.com and vicariously join in on the fun. (W5KUB)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WA2EHL repeater serving Burlington, New Jersey.

(5 sec pause here)

**

SPECIAL REPORT: E SKIP ON 2 METERS

Friday, July 31st was an amazing day for DX. That is if you happened to have been on 2 meter SSB or Morse that day. Yes, we said 2 meters. Take a listen:

--

Actual contact audio: Hear it in the MP3 version of this report downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

That's Jacque Dupuy, N0IRS, in Kansas City, Missouri, making the kind of VHF contacts that those who limit their operation only to repeaters are missing out on. Heres more:

--

Actual contact audio: Hear it in the MP3 version of this report downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

--

The secret to working DX like this is to be using the right mode on the right frequency when the band is open with E skip. With many of today's repeaters employing tone access, the day of listening for an out of area station on your favorite machine is fast coming to an end. You need to have a receiver capable of CW and SSB reception and be monitoring on or near 144.200 MHz to know when the DX is in.

And for those of you who want to hear more of what K0IRS has worked on 2 meters, simply go to YouTube dot com and put his call in the search box. What you see and hear may make a lot of you want to buy a big 2

meter antenna and a VHF multi-mode rig. (ARNewsline(tm) with audio from N0IRS video)

**

RESCUE RADIO: OWENSBORO KY TRAINS TO EMCOMM HAMS

Local officials in Owensboro, Kentucky, are again turning to ham radio to solve some of the communication problems they encountered.

During that severe winter weather crisis cellphone service throughout the Owensboro area was disrupted, sometimes for days at a time. Landline phones were also affected, and communication problems were cited by multiple emergency response agencies as the biggest issue they faced.

But Owensboro is one community well acquainted with turning to ham radio in such situations thanks in great part to the late George Wilson, W4OYI. Long before he became President of the ARRL Wilson brought the concept of turning to radio amateurs for emergency assistance to the attention of city leaders.

That was several decades ago. Now, many other hams are following in George Wilson's steps including Bob Spears, AA4RL, who is a member and past president of the Owensboro Amateur Radio Club. He says that drawing on the experience of the amateur radio operators, emergency management officials decided to sponsor a class on amateur radio operation. The five-week session teaches the skills and rules needed to pass the Technician class amateur radio test.

Spears, who has been licensed since 1961 said in a recent newspaper interview that this educational series will be good for the community because it will provide more people who can be deployed with radios. Spears said that these new hams can serve as weather spotters as well as assisting the Red Cross assess damage. Having amateur radio operators throughout the county would give real-time, on-the-scene feedback to emergency managers and to officials with the National Weather Service office in Paducah.

Owensboro Kentucky has a long history of cooperation between rescue radio hams and city officials. This is just another example of how that tradition carries on. (ARNewsline(tm) and Published reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAWAII HAMS WERE PREPATED FOR FELICIA

Hams in Hawaii were ready for a big storm that never arrived. This as the threat from hurricane Felicia was downgraded to a tropical depression and has now has passed.

Ron Hashiro, AH6RH, is the Hawaii State Civil Defense RACES coordinator. He says that in preparation for Felicia that daily nets were in operation. But as the storm approached and broke apart the

need for the Skywarn activation was cancelled.

Ron says that the daily State Civil Defense net was instead operated as an ARES net instead of a RACES activation. Because the threat did not materialize, RACES was not activated and this daily ARES net carried informational bulletins with revised frequencies and times as conditions warranted.

Hashiro says that it was a textbook example of coordination, information sharing and dissemination under the umbrella of ARES prior to activation to keep the amateur radio operators informed.

As an aside, Len Winkler, KB7LPW, who used to host the radio program Ham Radio and More now lives in Hawaii. He reports over Facebook that the area ended up with a total of 2" of rain but at the time of his posting on Wednesday, August 12th, they experienced some high winds that had began some 7 hours earlier. He reported that the winds were in excess of 35mph.and coming in from the West which is totally different than our normal. He added that his trees were not enjoying their swaying and that there were avocados everywhere. (AH6RH, KB7LPW)

**

RESCUE RADIO: MISSOURI HAM ASSISTS LOST HIKERS

A Houston, Missouri amateur radio operator played a role in aiding some lost hikers recently in the Paddy Creek area in northwest Texas County. On Saturday, August 1st, Richard Wood, KB0MPO, was monitoring a local repeater when he heard a call for help. The person was asking for assistance for himself and several hikers who became lost on the Paddy Creek Trail.

It appears that one o the hikers had his own ham radio equipment with him and found a local repeater frequency to call for help. The hikers described their location. Wood assessed the situation and gave directions to return to their campsite.

When some of the hikers decided it was too far to make the trip back, KB0MPO notified the sheriff's department to make a rescue. The hikers ultimately returned to their starting point without further incident. (KA0ADI)

**

RESCUE RADIO: CAR HORN BASED EMERGENCY ALERT SYSYEM PROPOSED IN GERMANY

In the past, Germany used sirens to warn the population in the streets against floods and other dangerous situations. Today, most sirens are gone having been dismantled after the Cold War.

Now, researchers of the Fraunhofer Institute for Technological Trend Analysis want the population to be warned of pending disasters by use of common car horns. In fact, they have applied for a patent of a

technology which allows the horns of parked cars to be activated in cases where such an immediate emergency natice to the Gerrman public is required..

The technology is based on the Germany's eCall emergency system, which new cars are going to be equipped with beginning in September 2010. The eCall system was developed at the initiative of the European Union Commission to help reduce the number of road traffic fatalities. It consists of a GPS sensor and a mobile phone component, which is activated only in case of an accident such as when airbags are triggered. The system then can transmit data such as the time and location of an accident and driving direction of the vehicle to an emergency call center.

The researchers soon realized that the eCall infrastructure can also be used to warn the population. Once the cars are equipped with a radio receiver, their horns can be triggered in case of disaster authorized civil protection agencies. This proposed new system is meant to complement rather than replace the other emergency alert options already in place in Germany many of which are broadcast based. More on this concept is on line http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/07/090720083423.htm (Science Daily)..

**

RADIO BUSINESS: MFJ ACQUIRES CUSHCRAFT AMATEUR ANTENNAS

In ham industry news, MFJ Enterprises, Inc., of Starkville, Mississippi has purchased Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas Product Line from Laird Technologies, St. Louis, Missouri. The sale was effective July 31, 2009 and MFJ has announced that Cushcraft products will continue to be manufactured in Manchester, New Hampshire.

According to MFJ Founder Martin Jue, K5FLU, Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antenna products have long been a popular source for a wide range of HF, VHF and UHF vertical, beam and yagi antennas for the amateur radio community. He says that the acquisition of Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas will bring over fifty new products to MFJ's amateur radio product line. Jue added that his company will add more new products to this antenna line and will continue the Cushcraft Amateur Radio Antennas name long into the future. Look for more information soon at www.mfjenterprises.com. (MFJ)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: RADIO SHACK TO BE KNOWN AS THE SHACK

And in case you have not heard the latest, Radio Shack will call itself the polite version of what hams have long called the chain. The Shack.

According to Chief Marketing Officer Lee Applbaum, customers, associates and even the investment community have long referred to

Radio Shack as 'The Shack. So says Applbaum the company has decided to embrace that fact and -- in his words not ours -- to share it with the world.

According to Applbaum customers see more of a focus on mobility and wireless products in the new advertising. He says that the company is contemporizing the way it wants people to think of the brand, rather than actually changing the official name of the company.

The word contemporizing does not seem to appear in any dictionary but we did find the words contemporize. It means to give a modern or contemporary character or setting or to update. It also means to place in or regard as belonging to the same age or time. (Published reports)

**

HAM HELP: PENNSYLVANIA HAM SEARCHING FOR ONE OF HIS OLD QSL CARDS

A Pennsylvania ham is looking for someone who has one of his old QSL cards so that he can recreate it and start using that design once again. Phil Lanse, K3IB, id that ham but the card he is looking for has his old K2IBP call sign on it.

Phil tells Newsline that he used those cards between 1953 and 1990 while he was very active on terrestrial VHF and EME from New Jersey. He says the card in question was printed by Richard "Brownie" Brown, W3CJI, who is now a silent key. The design featured Phil's K2IBP call in fluorescent blue letters outlined in black and black lettering on a fluorescent red background.

Phil says he would like to get a scan of one of his old cards so that he could have another print shop recreate it for him to use once again, If you can assist, please contact Phil by e-mail to l31nesep(at) epix (dot) net. He will be very grateful to anyone who can assist. (K3IB)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: ART HOUSHOLDER, K9TRG - S.K.

One of the hams who contributed mightily to the initial growth of FM in ham radio has become a silent key. Art Housholder, K9TRG, the founder of the Chicago-area based Spectronics passed away on Tuesday July 7th at age 82.

A a longtime resident of Elk Grove Village, Illinois, Art was one of those kids bitten by the amateur radio bug and soon became K9TRG. In the late 1960's his store, Spectronics was one of the centers where hams nationwide could purchase surplus land mobile two-way gear that they could convert to amateur radio use as mobile and fixed stations as well as repeaters.

Its unknown just how many repeaters started as used taxi and police radios that were recycled to ham radio through Spectronics, but the number had to have been into the hundreds if not thousands. In the process it also made the name Art Housholder and the call letters K9TRG a kind of early FM legend in the ham radio community.

Art Housholder was age 82 when he passed away at the Alexian Brothers Medical Center. A memorial was held on Saturday, July 11, at St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery in Palatine, Illinois. K9TRG leaves behind a legacy of helping to create a facet of ham radio that will likely live on for decades to come. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: 6 IN 10 COMPANIES TO SKIP WINDOWS 7 FOR NOW

The upcoming release of Microsoft's Windows 7 operating system has the computer world buzzing but the long awaited replacement for Vista may not get the level of corporate sales that its developers are hoping for. David Black, KB4KCH, reports:

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Six in 10 companies in a survey plan to skip the purchase of Microsoft Corp's Windows 7 computer operating system, many of them to pinch pennies and others over concern about compatibility with their existing applications.

Windows 7 will not be released until October 22nd, but has already garnered good reviews. This, in contrast to its disappointing current version known as Vista. Vista simply did not catch on with either consumers or the business world and many P-C makers opted to stay with the proven and popular Windows XP. Also, many companies rejected Windows Vista as unstable. For example, the chip maker Intel Corp, stayed with the older XP system.

So why will adoption of Windows 7 be slower than Mivrosoft expected? Many of the more than 1,000 companies that responded to a survey by ScriptLogic Corp say they have economized by cutting back on software updates and lack the resources to deploy Microsoft's latest offering. The survey found about 60 percent of those surveyed have no plans to deploy Windows 7. About 34 percent will deploy it by the end of 2010 and only 5.4 percent will deploy by the end of 2009

Forty-two percent said their biggest reason for avoiding Windows 7 was a "lack of time and resources. Another 39 percent of those surveyed said they had concern about the compatibility of Windows 7 with

existing applications.

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ScriptLogic is a corporation that provides help to companies in managing their Microsoft Windows-based networks. It sent out 20,000 surveys to information technology administrators to learn the state of the market. (Technology OnLine)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: USB PORT PROTECTION FROM L-COM

A surge protector for your U-S-B ports. That's the latest product from a company called L-com that is offering its model AL-ECF504-AB. This is a USB 2.0 connector port resistant to power surges and shielded against electromagnetic as well as RF interference. The unit is available as both Type A and Type B connectors. More is on-line at www.L-com.com. (L-COM)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO TO COORDINATE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Ham radio is about to become involved with improving the environment. This with word that the KP1-5 Project, which sponsored the 2009 Desecheo Island DXpedition has announced that it will be serving as national coordinator for Amateur Radio's involvement in the 2009 National Wildlife Refuge Week from Sunday, October 12th to Saturday, October 18th.

The goal this year is to combine amateur radio's communication skills with ones enjoyment of the outdoors to help others learn about the National Wildlife Refuge System. Hams worldwide can help spread the word about the National Wildlife Refuge System by operating in or near a refuge during National Wildlife Refuge Week.

Only authorized, responsible access to refuges is sanctioned by this event. For more details please visit www.nwrweek-radio.info

By the way: This year the National Wildlife Refuge System celebrates 106 years of conservation and quality recreation in 2009. (Press release)

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WORLDBEAT-UK: AMSAT-UK COLOQUIUM VIDEOS NOW ON LINE

In news from around the world, the videos of presentations at this years AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium are now available to watch on the British Amateur Television Club website. All 18 sessions can be seen at www.batc.tv (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT-AUSTRALIA: NEW VK BANDPLANS AND TONE ACCESS PLANS RELEASED

And word that the Wireless Institute of Australia has released revised repeater access plans that specifically include CTCSS tones, Echolink and D-STAR frequencies.

Under the revised scheme 91.5 Hz is the new CTCSS tone for standard repeater activation in Australia. It replaces 123 Hz which is no longer recommended for future relay devices due to problems with false detecting. 141.3 or 146.2 Hz are to be used to activate links to repeaters on other VHF and UHF bands. 85.4 Hz will be used to activate links to other bands that some operators are not permitted to directly use.

The WIA has also revised band plans so as to include recommended frequencies for D-Star and Echolink simplex operation. Included is an interim plan for the new 2200 Meter or 135.7 to 137.8 kHz very low frequency band as well. (WIA News)

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ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING A MUSEUM IN THE NETHERLANDS

On the air, listen out for PD55EA. That station will be on the air until August 28th to celebrate the 55th birthday of the "Ellert and Brammert" Museum in Schoonoord, the Netherlands.. They group will be active on 40, 20 and 10 meters using SSB and the digital modes. There may also be activity on 2 meters as well. QSL's will be sent automatically via the bureau. If you want to QSL direct, please send your QSL via PD7BZ. (DXNL)

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DX

In DX, F2VX and FYFYD, will sign portable 4J from August 11th to 29th, from Azerbaijan using mainly H-F SSB. QSL via direct with an self addressed envelope plus postage or via the French Ref-Bureau only.

And T6AD will be on the air using mainly CW during his free time from Afghanistan until 22nd of August. QSL via K2AU.

W2LPL will be operational portable A25 from Botswana from August 16th to the 19th. Plans are to use SSB and PSK31 on 20 meters. QSL's go to W2LPL.

EI6DX, will be active as portable 6W between November 7th to the 16th from Somone, Senegal which is located about 70 km southeast of the city of Dakar. He will concentrate on the lower bands and CW. QSL to RX3RC, direct or via the bureau.

EI3IO says he is leaving Ireland and will move to Bahrain for at least 2 years. He has not yet received his callsign yet but plans to be active on 160 meters through the VHF bands. Listen for him on 20 meters starting in September. Hopefully more details will be

forthcoming at his Web page at http://EI3IO.com

Lastly, W2VQ and WQ2N using their own calls stroke FJ from St. Barthalamy between August 18th nto the 25th. Their operation will be on 80 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. An online log will be available during and after the operation.

(Above from various DX news sources.)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: RADIO LAW: TEEN SUES AMAZON OVER 1984 BOOK DELETION

Radio transmission is what makes the Amazon Kindle electronic book work and its Amazon's use of radio to delete a book from the Kindle that has lead to legal action against the merchandising giant. This, as a 17 year old student from Michigan has filed a lawsuit against Amazon after it deleted a book he had purchased for his Kindle device. Jerry Gaul, KE7GGV, has the details:

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The high school student, Justin D. Gawronski, filed suit in a Seattle, Washington court. He claims that Amazon forcibly recalled copies of George Orwell's "1984" in July after it was revealed that it was an unauthorized version. Gawronski's complaint alleges that he was reading "1984" over the summer for an advanced placement class and had to turn in notes called reflections on each hundred pages. Gawronski claims that with the loss of the digital book, his page count was thrown off and his notes were -- in his words -- "rendered useless because they no longer referenced the relevant parts of the book."

While buyers received refunds for the electronically recalled copies of the Orwell books, the fact that no advance notice has created an uproar against Amazon. The lawsuit, for one, alleges that Amazon did not make it clear enough to customers that remote book deletions were even a possibility. It also alleges that the company violated its own terms of use by radioing Gawronski work notes away, without giving him a chance to save it first.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jerry Gaule, KE7GGV.

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Gawronski along with a California resident are seeking class action status for the suit. Amazon has so far declined to comment on the tort action filed against it. (Todays Technology and other published news reports)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain,

the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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381. 2m coverage in C. Crane radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-14 15:39:42 UTC
From: patty1@sonic.net
Message-ID: <4a858531$0$1646$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 1891

Last night I was listening to KGO, the top-rated station in San Francisco, and the host did a commercial for C. Crane. They often advertise their AM/FM radios on KGO in the evening and overnight because KGO has regular listeners all the way up to British Columbia, so they have a ready-made audience of people who want radios that can pull in distant stations well.

Anyway...this is the first time I've heard the 2m ham band mentioned in a commercial for an AM/FM radio! I don't know whether the "CC Radio 2" is a new product, or whether they just hadn't mentioned this band before. (It also gets the weather band.) They said that they had included the 2m band in the radio so that listeners could get valuable information during an emergency. Yay us! :-)

I just looked at their website, and they provide even more positive mention of amateur radio there. Their CC2 page:

http://www.ccrane.com/radios/am-fm-radios/ccradio-2.aspx

says, "The addition of the 2-Meter Ham band may make the CCRadio-2 a life saver during an emergency like hurricane Katrina. 2-Meter Ham operators are early on the scene and they donate their time while handling perhaps 90% of the emergency coordination efforts." They have even put up an entire page called, "What Can I Hear on the 2-Meter Amateur Radio Band?"

http://www.ccrane.com/library/2-meter-amateur-radio-band.aspx

After going on and on about how wonderful hams are, that page tells how to get a ham license and gives a link to the League's website. All in all, very cool!

Usual disclaimers: I don't work for C. Crane, don't know anyone who does, don't even own any of their radios. Just really liked this good publicity they're giving us!

Patty N6BIS

p.s. Do any folks from Newington read this group? If not, I'll send this info to someone there.

382. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 32 (Friday, August 14, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-14 21:03:11 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090814210242.01DCD3276A@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1892
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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Vol. 28, No. 32
August 14, 2009
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* QEX: Look for the September/October 2009 Issue
* Cutting Edge ARRL Contest Runs this Weekend
* Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC Featured in National Commercial
* 7O1YGF Operation Approved for DXCC Credit
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
RadioShack Rebranding Itself as THE SHACK
FCC: Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10
Mickey "Santa Claus" Hicks, WO6T (SK)

There will be no ARRL Audio News for Friday, August 14. The ARRL Audio
News will return on Friday, August 21.

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> ARRL PRESIDENT HARRISON PRESENTS LEAGUE'S VIEWS ON DISTRACTED
DRIVING LAWS TO SAFETY ADVOCACY GROUP

To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing
public debate over what to do about distracted drivers, ARRL President
Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written a letter to the National Safety Council
(NSC) <http://www.nsc.org/>, highlighting issues regarding the use of
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Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf>. Many states have outlawed the use of cell phones while driving; some states with these laws have ambiguous wording (such as "mobile communication devices" or "mobile electronic devices") concerning the use of Amateur Radio while driving.

According to their Web site, the NSC is "on a mission" to "alert the American public that different kinds of distractions have different levels of crash risk. Talking on a cell phone and sending text messages are much higher risk activities that occur for longer durations and with more people than most other actions engaged in while driving." They also seek to "lead a change in our nation's cultural norms, so people come to view cell phone conversations and text messaging while driving as unsafe and socially unacceptable. Calling for a legislative ban on these activities is the first step in a long-term process to educate Americans to their risk and change the culture" <http://www.nsc.org/resources/issues/distracted_driving.aspx>.

Harrison explained to NSC President Janet Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, it boils down to the difference between simplex -- when only one message can be sent in either direction at one time -- and duplex -- a communications mode, such as a telephone system, that provides simultaneous transmission and reception in both directions. Harrison, citing Sumner's 40-plus years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator, puts it this way: "Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

Harrison attached a copy of the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation to the letter to the NSC. "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles," the Policy Statement reads. "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player.

There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times. See the Policy Statement on the ARRL Web site:
<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf>

383. Re: 2m coverage in C. Crane radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-15 01:48:00 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <E46dnfiDQqOtdBjXnZ2dnUVZ_odi4p2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1893

Patty Winter wrote:
> Last night I was listening to KGO, the top-rated station in San
> Francisco, and the host did a commercial for C. Crane. They often
> advertise their AM/FM radios on KGO in the evening and overnight
> because KGO has regular listeners all the way up to British Columbia,
> so they have a ready-made audience of people who want radios that
> can pull in distant stations well.
>
> Anyway...this is the first time I've heard the 2m ham band mentioned
> in a commercial for an AM/FM radio!

This is the first time I've seen a company named "C. Crane" mentioned.
Do they market solar-powered or hand-powered radios? Are they an OEM, or
are they rebrands of some other manufacturer?

W1AC
(Filter QRM for direct replies)

384. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 32 (Friday, August 14, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-15 03:13:17 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090815031246.4176F318BA@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1894
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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"The ARRL acknowledges numerous and increasing instances of state legislative proposals (and occasionally municipal ordinance proposals) to curb the use of cellular telephones while operating motor vehicles, ranging from prohibitions on hand-held telephones to prohibitions on all forms of electronic devices," the Policy Statement maintains. "These statutory proposals would supplement the more generalized motor vehicle code requirements that exist in various forms in virtually all States, which require operators of motor vehicles to pay full time and attention to the operation of the vehicle while driving. ARRL understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, and it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles."

Saying that the League understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, "it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles. Given the necessity of unrestricted mobile Amateur Radio communications in order for the benefits of Amateur Radio to the public to continue to be realized," the policy statement reads, "the ARRL urges state and municipal legislators considering restrictions on mobile cellular telephone operation to (I) narrowly define the class of devices included in the regulation so that the class includes only full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment; or alternatively (II) specifically identify licensed Amateur Radio operation as an excluded service."

"The ARRL is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention," the Policy Statement asserts. "Quite the contrary: Radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

==> ARRL RESPONDS TO FCC'S PROPOSED ALLOCATION FOR MEDICAL DEVICES IN 70 CM BAND

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, on behalf of the ARRL, filed comments <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/MannFoundationDocket_09-36Comments08_11_09.pdf> on August 11 regarding a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM), ET Docket 09-36, issued by the FCC in March 2009 <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-20A1.pdf>. In

the NPRM, the FCC proposed to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm). According to the Commission, these devices -- called implanted neuromuscular microstimulators -- would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micro-power networks (MMNs). These devices would be used on the 70 cm band on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Data Radiocommunication Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. The Amateur Radio Service has a secondary allocation in the 70 cm band.

Researchers with the Alfred Mann Foundation -- a leading medical research organization located in Santa Clarita, California <http://www.aemf.org/> -- have developed a wireless medical micro-power network to tie together tiny devices implanted in victims of paralysis, creating an artificial nervous system to restore sensation, mobility, and function to paralyzed limbs and organs. "The Mann Foundation argues that the frequency range just above 400 MHz is optimum for their application, which requires no more than 1 mW of RF spread across about 5 MHz of bandwidth," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, wrote in "It Seems to Us," published in the June 2009 issue of QST <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/06/01/10784/>. "However, recognizing the presence of a variety of incumbent radio services in that range, specifically including the amateur service, they have proposed four channels for flexibility in avoiding localized interference. Two of the four channels are 426-432 and 438-444 MHz; the other two are above and below the 420-450 MHz band."

In its comments to the FCC regarding the NPRM, the ARRL said it believes that the choice of frequency bands for MMNs as proposed is "unfortunate and unnecessary" and that "the WMTS [Wireless Medical Telemetry Service] offers a far more suitable solution than does the 413-457 MHz band for MMNs."

Sumner, in his editorial, said that the FCC's proposed rules raise two concerns: "First and foremost, the devices would be required to accept interference only from stations authorized to operate on a primary basis. The Mann Foundation has assured us that amateur stations will not cause its system to malfunction, so we see no reason why this cannot be reflected in the rules, even though our allocation is on a secondary basis. Second, while the Mann Foundation researchers appear to have done their homework, others who try to take advantage of the new rules may not be as rigorous."

The ARRL asserts in its comments that due to redundant interference rejection design, the devices developed by the Alfred Mann Foundation "appear to have some reasonable prospect of avoiding the disastrous consequences of RF interference to implanted MMNs." The ARRL stressed, however, that the FCC should not permit the marketing of MMNs or any similar device in the 420-450 MHz band: "(1) unless and until thorough

RF interference susceptibility testing is conducted on the AMF devices relative to high power Amateur Radio equipment; (2) at parameters other than those inherent in the Mann system, which incorporates notably redundant interference rejection design characteristics; and (3) without very specific patient notifications and labeling of the body-worn MCUs [Master Control Units] and other portable components which provide firm assurance that the devices will not malfunction in the presence of RF fields from authorized radio services in the same bands."

The ARRL did acknowledge that it thought the Commission to be correct when it stated in the NPRM that "[g]iven the low transmitter power and duty cycle limits that would typically be used by either the implanted MMN device or the external MCU, we expect that the risk of interference from MMNs to incumbent operations in these frequency bands would be negligibly small." The ARRL pointed out, however, that no testing has been done to verify this conclusion and "such testing should be concluded and the results analyzed before this anticipatory conclusion can be relied upon."

In its comments, the ARRL made note of the fact that there is Part 90 spectrum above 450 MHz available for low-power biomedical telemetry, but "the Alfred Mann Foundation argues that bands between 450 and 470 MHz are unsuitable due to the fact that the band is 'congested and populated with commercial, high-power transmitters that could preclude reliable operation of lower-power, wireless medical implant devices.' This, the ARRL said, "is a very worrisome contention, and not the argument that should be made by the proponent of a new service that is secondary to other incumbent licensees. ARRL contends that if the 450-470 MHz band hosts services that are incompatible with reliable operation of MMNs, then the 420-450 MHz band, and especially the segment proposed for MMNs at 438-444 MHz is equally incompatible with MMNs."

Pointing out that Amateur Radio television transmitters and repeaters and FM voice repeater input and outputs operate in this segment in particular, "the potential for interference to MMNs is on the same order, or worse, than would be the case if MMNs were to operate in the Part 90 biomedical telemetry band between 450 and 470 MHz," the ARRL told the FCC. "In the segment 426-432 MHz, amateur television stations transmit on a wide bandwidth basis. Amateur Radio stations are permitted to operate at power levels up to 1500 W PEP output, and the RF environment at 420-450 MHz, with primary government radiolocation facilities and highpower amateur facilities is no more conducive to reliable MMN operation than would be the 450-470 MHz band."

The ARRL also voiced concerns that nowhere in the NPRM does it mention what the allocation status of MMNs would be relative to the Amateur Radio Service. Though the Alfred Mann Foundation has proposed that MMNs would be secondary to incumbent licensed operations in the subject bands, the Amateur Service is presently secondary to government radiolocation in this band; this represents a cooperative sharing arrangement that is satisfactory to both government agencies and the

Amateur Service, the League contends.

"While it is presumed that the proposal is for MMNs to be secondary to both government radiolocation and to the Amateur Service (as opposed to Amateur stations and MMNs being co-secondary) this is not clear from the NPRM," the ARRL maintained. "Because the interference susceptibility of MMN devices generally is not known, it would be improper to create a co-secondary allocation for MMNs anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band at this time. The Amateur Service has a practical inability to protect patients wearing RF susceptible MMNs from interference from ongoing amateur operations in the 420-450 MHz band, and therefore all MMN operation is going to have to be conditioned on the ability to withstand and operate in the presence of such high-power signals, and thus subordinate in allocation status to the Amateur Service. Unless this interference rejection capability is demonstrated by MMN proponents in advance, the devices should not be allowed to operate anywhere in the 420-450 MHz band."

Imlay and ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, met with the Alfred Mann Foundation in February 2009, but Imlay said that so far, they have not responded to the ARRL's request to "cooperate in a firm statement that their devices would not malfunction in the presence of nearby RF signals from Amateur Radio stations. Failing that, these comments reflect our continuing concern about the effect on implant patients from unpredictably close Amateur Radio station operations. Other radio services affected, both above and below the 430-450 MHz band, are taking similar positions."

==> ARRL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVES EIGHT EDUCATION & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRANTS

In July 2009, the ARRL Executive Committee reviewed grant applications for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP) <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>, awarding nearly $9000 to eight schools. More than 370 schools across the country have received support from the ETP in the form of grants for equipment, curriculum and resources, as well as teacher in-service training through the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/ti.html>. The Executive Committee reviews applications for equipment and resource grants twice each year.

ETP Grants
ETP grants consist of Amateur Radio equipment, enabling the school to set up a station. Schools may receive activity kits in addition to station equipment. The following schools recently received ETP grants:

Bob Jones High School, Madison, Alabama: One teacher from this school -- and another seven from the school's district -- attended the ARRL Teachers Institute this summer. The grant application proposed a basic Amateur Radio station to implement what these teachers learned during the Teachers Institute. The proposal detailed a long range plan with incremental steps; this basic station set-up is the first step to school

district-wide programs within numerous schools in the district.

Armada Middle School, Armada, Michigan: The program articulated in this grant application is the typical entry level program that includes Amateur Radio as an extracurricular activity, and asks for a basic Amateur Radio station. The instructors plan to mainstream the program as they gain experience and student support.

Hidden Valley High School, Roanoke, Virginia: This grant application asks for a basic Amateur Radio station. As the school gains experience with ham radio in the classroom, their program will be refined. Their application requests a basic station set up and has plans for future expansion.

Progress Grants
In order for a school to be considered for a Progress Grant, it must already be an ETP School. If a teacher attends a session of the Teachers Institute, that school is automatically considered an ETP School. The following schools received Progress Grants:

West Pines Elementary School, Greenville, Tennessee: The lead teacher -- a graduate of the Teachers Institute -- wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute. This will be used as a beginning to expand the program to include space in the classroom content.

Morris County School of Technology, Denville, New Jersey: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute, but has moved to this school since that time. He would like to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute as a beginning to expand the program to include space in the classroom content.

Highland Middle School, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute and wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute as a beginning to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.

Sister Lakes Elementary School, Dowagiac, Michigan: The lead teacher, a graduate of the Teachers Institute, was selected to participate in the inaugural Teachers Institute II this summer. He has proven to be a strong advocate for integrating ham radio not only in his previous school assignment as a teacher, but also in his current position as a school administrator. He is requesting the equipment resources to develop the Mars Lander simulation that is demonstrated during the Teachers Institute.

Livingston High School, Livingston, New Jersey: The lead teacher for this program is a recent Teachers Institute graduate. He wants to expand the use of the activity board resources he learned about during the Institute into his regular curriculum.

Nichols Junior High School, Arlington, Texas: The lead teacher is a graduate of the Teachers Institute and wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the Teachers Institute as a beginning to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.

A goal of the ARRL Education & Technology Program is to improve the quality of education by providing an educationally sound curriculum that employs Amateur Radio to integrate technology, math, science, geography and language arts with core curricula. Amateur Radio and an understanding of radio science are keys to building Wireless Technology Literacy, another important objective.

==> QEX: LOOK FOR THE SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009 ISSUE

The September/October issue of QEX is coming soon, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you won't want to miss <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

Richard Chapman, KC4IFB, shows how to use the Arduino prototyping board to design a project, and then gives us a lesson in programming the microprocessor to "Build a Low-Cost Iambic Keyer Using Open-Source Hardware." W. G. Moneysmith, W4NFR, was a new repeater trustee needing a duplexer for a 70 cm repeater. He presents his solution in "A Homecrafted Duplexer for the 70 Centimeter Band."

Robert Zimmerman, VE3RKZ, describes one of his recent antenna experiments in "An Easily Erected 20 Meter Antenna for Emergency Use." Mike Hamel, WO1U, discusses "Phase Controlled Differential Drive for EER Amplifiers" in this presentation about envelope elimination and restoration as a way to achieve linear operation with high efficiency (such as Class E) amplifiers.

Gary Steinbaugh, AF8L, presents Part 4 of "A Cybernetic Sinusoidal Synthesizer." In this installment, Gary describes an RF power level control module for the synthesizer, and concludes with a 53.3 MHz low phase noise synthesizer using the 10 MHz reference signal. Bob Miller, KE6F, explains how you can use a surplus rubidium oscillator to build an "Atomic Frequency Reference for Your Shack." He presents information about the stability and accuracy of rubidium oscillators, as well as a number of practical applications for such a reference.

Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50/printed page. Get more information and an Author's Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/#aguide>. If you prefer postal mail, send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Author's Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B <lwolfgang@arrl.org>, and is published bimonthly. The subscription rate (6 issues) for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First Class US delivery, it's $37; in Canada and internationally by airmail it's $31. Nonmembers add $12 to these rates. Subscribe to QEX today <http://www.arrl.org/qex>.

==> CUTTING EDGE ARRL CONTEST RUNS THIS WEEKEND

If you enjoy the technical side of Amateur Radio and being on the cutting edge, you might want to take a look at the microwave bands. This weekend gives you a perfect chance to explore this portion of the radio spectrum with the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-GHz.html>.

There are two weekends of activity: August 15 and 16, and again on September 19 and 20. The contest period for both weekends starts at 6 AM local time Saturday and runs until Midnight local time Sunday. QSO points are awarded based on the distance of a QSO, and operating from several locations during the contest period is not only allowed, it's encouraged! SSB is the mode commonly used, although there is some CW used as well. Power levels are relatively low compared to HF; most stations run several hundred milliwatts. A station running a few watts is considered a "Big Gun." Antennas are usually dishes, like those used for receiving satellite TV.

Many QSOs are completed on the microwave bands by bouncing signals off of other objects, such as mountains, buildings, even raindrops! You can also get lucky and catch a good tropospheric opening; in the 2007 contest, a QSO of 907.2 miles was made on 10 GHz on the NA West Coast between California and Mexico.

If you have a person in your area active on the microwave bands, ask if you can tag along and observe. If you live in an area that has a microwave club, such as the North Texas Microwave Society, the North East Weak Signal Group, the Mt Airy VHF Club and several others, find out what their members are doing for the contest. Elmering is a big part of the microwave groups and they are only too happy to introduce their fun to you.

Exploring different facets of Amateur Radio gives you the opportunity to see what others enjoy and why they enjoy it. You might be missing out on something you would really like. Think outside the box and try something new!
==> AMATEUR RADIO STATION WX4NHC FEATURED IN NATIONAL COMMERCIAL

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, is featured in a 60 second radio spot for Duracell batteries. The commercial, which begins airing this month, highlights the efforts of an all-volunteer army of ham radio operators for WX4NHC. Narrated by actor Jeff Bridges, it describes the important role that radio amateurs play during severe weather conditions -- enabling communications with emergency medical teams, police and fire departments -- when the power goes out. The narration underscores the importance of a reliable battery to power the portable ham radios, which are crucial to WX4NHC's work. Listen to the spot here: <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/HURRICANE_60_PREPAREDNESS_MIX.MP3>.

"This commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season and will help promote awareness of Amateur Radio and the public service we do to provide emergency communications, especially during and after hurricanes, when we have experienced complete electrical and

conventional communications blackouts for periods of days and weeks," WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, told the ARRL.

Ripoll said that he and WX4NHC Amateur Radio Coordinator John McHugh, K4AG, worked with the ACME Marketing Firm and Duracell for several weeks to help produce the radio commercial. "It captures the essence of Amateur Radio volunteer public service and the important role of Amateur Radio performs during emergency communications in 30 seconds," Ripoll said. "The President and Creative Director of ACME and the Duracell national representative also flew down to Miami and received a tour of NHC and of the WX4NHC station where they learned about our many modes of communications, including our portable VHF/UHF radios and other portable battery operated equipment."

"With this new spot, we are helping to showcase the important contributions made by the Miami ham radio operators," said Duracell's Bob Jacobs. "These heroic teams are working to save the lives of others. When storms strike, the radio operators are donating their time to make sure communications stay intact, facing intense pressures and dangerous conditions to those in need. We're proud that our batteries can help power these life-saving efforts."

==> 7O1YGF OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT

On August 12, ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, announced that after more than eight years, the 7O1YGF operation in 2000 from Yemen <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2002/08/15/2/?nc=1> has been approved for DXCC credit. Moore cited a review of "recently received information," as well as "additional dialogue" with the leader of the 7O1YGF DXpedition, as reasons for the approval. Because so much time has passed since the DXpedition, Moore asked that those amateurs seeking credit for 7OYGF follow certain procedures.

If you are seeking credit for 7O1YGF only:
* If you live in the US, send only the 7O1YGF QSL card with your application to DXCC; enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If you live outside the US, please enclose return postage, so we may return the card to you. DXCC will then process the card. Applicants will not be charged a submission fee.
* Bring the card to a DXCC Card Checker. The card checker will forward the confirmation to the DXCC Desk for processing. Again, there will be no submission fee if this is a single card submission; however, you still must fill out an application form.

If you are submitting 7O1YGF with other QSL cards:
* Applicants may include their 7O1YGF QSL card with their next QSL card submission and it will be handled as usual.

Moore said that the DXCC Desk will work with the 7O1YGF team to use Logbook of the World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>, if possible. "Remember, the cutoff date for the 2009 DXCC Annual listing and Honor Roll list is December 31, 2009," Moore reminded DXers. "We encourage

applicants to handle this sooner, rather than waiting until the last minute."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The fair haired Sun rises in the sky" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Another quiet week on the Sun. Last week on Earth we neglected to mention the Perseids meteor shower, which peaked this week on August 12-13. A nice statistical display from the International Meteor Organization is at <http://www.imo.net/live/perseids2009/.> A look at <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpmenu/forecasts/45DF.html> on August 13 showed possible heightened geomagnetic activity returning around August 18-19, with a planetary A index of 20 and 12, respectively. Sunspot numbers for August 6 through 12 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. 10.7 cm flux was 66.8, 67.8, 67, 67.2, 67.1, 66.6 and 66.5 with a mean of 67. Estimated planetary A indices were 14, 8, 4, 8, 4, 4 and 5 with a mean of 6.7. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 8, 2, 6, 3, 2 and 2 with a mean of 4.4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Rhonda Baker's "August Sun" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/august-sun/>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, there is an NCCC Sprint on August 14. The ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest and the North American QSO Party (SSB) are August 15-16. On August 15, look for another NCCC Sprint, as well as the Feld Hell Sprint. The New Jersey QSO Party is August 15-17 and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is August 17. Next week, there is another NCCC Sprint on August 21. Check out the Hawaii QSO Party and the Ohio QSO Party on August 22-23. The SKCC Sprint is on August 26. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 23, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 4, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a

Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* RadioShack Rebranding Itself as The Shack: In early August, a RadioShack Corporation news release touted its new branding: THE SHACK. The stated purpose: THE SHACK is friendlier-sounding and less "corporate" than RadioShack <http://ir.radioshackcorporation.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=400656>.

* FCC: Vanity Call Sign Fees to Increase September 10: On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase $1.10, from $12.30 to $13.40. Now that notice of the increase has been published in the "Federal Register" <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-19104.pdf>, the increase will take effect in 30 days, September 10, 2009. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934, As Amended, to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10 year term. The notice in the August 11, 2009 Federal Register, entitled "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009," includes regulatory fees; these fees are expected to recover a total of $341,875,000 during FY2009, encompassing all the Services the FCC regulates. For more information, see the recent ARRLWeb article, "FCC Looks to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees for Second Consecutive Year" <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/18/10825/?nc=1>.

* Mickey "Santa Claus" Hicks, WO6T (SK): Mickey Hicks, WO6T <http://www.wo6t.com/> -- known to many amateurs and their children as Santa Claus -- passed away Sunday, August 9. He was 79. For the past 38 years, Hicks, a ham for almost 50 years and a long-time ARRL member and Amateur Radio instructor, would get on the air for 10 days each December as W6S (Whiskers-6-Santa). ARRL Youth Editor Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, profiled Hicks in December 2008 <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2008/12/01/10479/>: "The Amateur Radio community has been quick to embrace the W6S operation. Mickey says that the first year operating as W6S was 'a hit with the operators of all ages and their children.' Mickey noted that most children are a bit apprehensive of talking over the radio, let alone to Santa! Hicks told the ARRL in 2001 that his Santa's Workshop has been a great ham radio recruiting tool <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/12/21/3/?nc=1>.

One of his most memorable experiences was when a young girl he'd once spoken with on the air as Santa came by with her ham ticket in hand to thank him in person for getting her interested. "I had tears in my eyes, of course," he said. -- Thanks to "The Daily DX" <http://www.dailydx.com/> for providing some information for this story

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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385. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-15 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1250316000@panix.com>
Source record: 1895
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.10 2009/05/27 12:04:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader
opinions in March of 2009:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt
it permanently if successful.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and
news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc.

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message)
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

Because rec.radio.amateur.moderated is a Usenet newsgroup, there are | implied or derived guidelines for participation that are drawn from the | above articles about overall Usenet culture and tradition. Two of these | implied or derived guidelines are encapsulated in two basic rules that | our moderation team uses to initially determine whether an article is | appropriate for our newsgroup. They are restated explicitly here for | clarification: |

Basic Rule #1: The article must be on-topic for amateur radio. A | rule-of-thumb that our moderation team applies is whether the article | mentions amateur radio, ham radio, some synonym for amateur or ham | radio, some technique or practice of amateur or ham radio including | closely related technical topics such as antennas or portable power, or | regulatory politics that directly affect amateur radio. This | rule-of-thumb is also applied to determine if an article in a thread has | drifted too far off-topic. For example, articles that have drifted into | general rants or monologues will probably be returned with a polite | request to rewrite to include a reasonable amateur radio connection or | angle. |

Basic Rule #2: The article must not have excessive spelling, grammar, or | logical argument errors affecting readability and understandability. | The moderation team understands that clear, understandable, technical or | expository writing is a skill that can only be perfected through a | lifetime of focused training and practice. Because the moderation team | does not want to hold submitters to a standard higher than what it can | achieve itself, nor disrupt the newsgroup and discourage submitters by | playing spelling or grammar police, it will only return for rewrite any | article that cannot be reasonably understood by multiple moderators. |

If it is necessary to return any article for a rewrite because the | moderators have determined that it does not meet Basic Rule #1 or #2, | please accept this constructive feedback in the manner in which it is | intended. The moderation team offers its assistance to help rewrite any | submitted article into a form that preserves its original intent and | meaning, but is also on-topic, as well as readable and understandable by | others. |

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which

itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such

fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The

moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management Board:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

386. Re: 2m coverage in C. Crane radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-15 15:11:08 UTC
From: Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
Message-ID: <4a86ccfb$0$1661$742ec2ed@news.sonic.net>
Source record: 1896

In article <E46dnfiDQqOtdBjXnZ2dnUVZ_odi4p2d@speakeasy.net>,
Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>
>This is the first time I've seen a company named "C. Crane" mentioned.
>Do they market solar-powered or hand-powered radios?

Yep. They have a number of emergency radios.

http://www.ccrane.com/radios/

>Are they an OEM, or are they rebrands of some other manufacturer?

I don't know.

Patty

387. Re: 2m coverage in C. Crane radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-15 16:11:36 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <CPydnf0Ur--1QxvXnZ2dnUVZ_r6dnZ2d@posted.pcez>
Source record: 1897

Bill Horne wrote:
> Patty Winter wrote:
>> Last night I was listening to KGO, the top-rated station in San
>> Francisco, and the host did a commercial for C. Crane. They often
>> advertise their AM/FM radios on KGO in the evening and overnight
>> because KGO has regular listeners all the way up to British Columbia,
>> so they have a ready-made audience of people who want radios that
>> can pull in distant stations well.
>>
>> Anyway...this is the first time I've heard the 2m ham band mentioned
>> in a commercial for an AM/FM radio!
>
> This is the first time I've seen a company named "C. Crane" mentioned.
> Do they market solar-powered or hand-powered radios? Are they an OEM,
> or are they rebrands of some other manufacturer?

C.Crane is a specialty mail-order/internet retailer who started out selling
the GE "Super Radio" and similar products to AM DX listeners around
the US. They have since expanded both their range of radio products and
also branched out into semi-related products. Including alternate-power
receivers, flashlights, etc.

They seem to be branding products from several OEMs. I wouldn't be
surprised if a ham or two were working for the company somewhere.

388. Re: 2m coverage in C. Crane radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-16 01:01:37 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <g2kd8551acvkd2icst2nsisnopcb1ch8gc@4ax.com>
Source record: 1898

On Sat, 15 Aug 2009 11:11:08 EDT, Patty Winter <patty1@wintertime.com>
wrote:

>
>In article <E46dnfiDQqOtdBjXnZ2dnUVZ_odi4p2d@speakeasy.net>,
>Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net> wrote:
>>
>>This is the first time I've seen a company named "C. Crane" mentioned.
>>Do they market solar-powered or hand-powered radios?
>
>Yep. They have a number of emergency radios.
>
>http://www.ccrane.com/radios/

And a lot of other products, too. See their main page
http://www.ccrane.com .

I never bought a radio from them. But I did buy two other items.

One is an LED flashlight I got 9 years ago which I use frequently. I'm
still on the original alkaline batteries.

Another was a miner's-cap headlamp. I could not stand the odor from
the straps which held it to my head. They took it back, and refunded
not only the original price plus shipping, but an extra $5 for my
trouble!

>>Are they an OEM, or are they rebrands of some other manufacturer?
>
>I don't know.

I remember an ad for one of their radios saying something like: Made
by <big German radio manufacturer> to our specifications.

Dick, AC7EL

389. Re: 2m coverage in C. Crane radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-17 01:04:26 UTC
From: Rob <nomail@example.com>
Message-ID: <slrnh8geo5.2can.nomail@xs7.xs4all.nl>
Source record: 1899

Patty Winter <patty1@sonic.net> wrote:
> Anyway...this is the first time I've heard the 2m ham band mentioned
> in a commercial for an AM/FM radio! I don't know whether the "CC Radio
> 2" is a new product, or whether they just hadn't mentioned this band
> before. (It also gets the weather band.) They said that they had
> included the 2m band in the radio so that listeners could get valuable
> information during an emergency. Yay us! :-)

I wonder how useful (or lifesaving, as they claim) it would be to listen
in on amateur 2m communication during an emergency?

Maybe it would be more effective to budy a normal radio and one of
those Chinese 2m (or even dualband) portables?
(wouxun puxing weierwei fdc etc.)

This would at least have transmit capability...

390. Re: 2m coverage in C. Crane radio

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-17 01:58:14 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <pjbh851e1fv99p4if6crs2o55u6nvkccm1@4ax.com>
Source record: 1900

On Sun, 16 Aug 2009 21:04:26 EDT, Rob <nomail@example.com> wrote:

>Patty Winter <patty1@sonic.net> wrote:
>> Anyway...this is the first time I've heard the 2m ham band mentioned
>> in a commercial for an AM/FM radio! I don't know whether the "CC Radio
>> 2" is a new product, or whether they just hadn't mentioned this band
>> before. (It also gets the weather band.) They said that they had
>> included the 2m band in the radio so that listeners could get valuable
>> information during an emergency. Yay us! :-)
>
>I wonder how useful (or lifesaving, as they claim) it would be to listen
>in on amateur 2m communication during an emergency?
>
>Maybe it would be more effective to budy a normal radio and one of
>those Chinese 2m (or even dualband) portables?
>(wouxun puxing weierwei fdc etc.)
>
>This would at least have transmit capability...

I spent a few minutes searching the web for wouxun, puxing, weierwei
and fdc radios. I found models of wouxun and fdc which transmit in
the ham bands. These radios would be useful, provided that someone
buying one of these understands that (1) to transmit with it legally
they need a ham license (and abides by this rule); and that (2)
lacking a ham license they are not allowed to transmit with it unless
it is a real emergency and no other means of communications is
available.

391. ClubLog.org

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-20 16:54:25 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h6jv3hkga1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1801

G7VJR has established a rather neat on-line application for those who like to "slice-and-dice" their logs to learn things about their operations that aren't always evident in traditional logging programs.

You upload your log in ADIF, and then use any of several tools to analyze it. Free.

This is not another LoTW or eQSL, but a handy supplement to them.

73, de Hans, K0HB
--
"Just a boy and his Radio"
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Request QSL at ---> http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/K0HB
All valid QSL requests honored with old fashioned paper QSL
LoTW participant

392. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1671 - August 21 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-21 09:13:42 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090821021038.01796a58@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1802
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1671 - August 21 2009

(Please note that this is an extended Newsline report running 32 minutes and containing 3 breaks. Thank you.)

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1671 with a release date of Friday, August 21, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Two hams reported safe after a terrorist bomb blast in Kabul. We have one of them here with the story. Also, the ARRL DXCC Desk says yes to the 2000 Yemen, GAREC 09 to take place in Tokyo, a move in Congress to ban all texting while driving and the FCC starts to tweet. All this and more on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1671 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: TWO HAMS SAFE FOLLOWING KABUL BLAST

Two hams are safe after a bomb blast rips through a crowded area in Kabul, Afghanastan. One of them is Steve Herman, T6AD, who is a news reporter on assignment in Kabul. He has this report:

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First off I can report that both Jim McLaughlin, T6AF, and this reporter are fine following the suicide car bombing here in Kabul at 08:30 local time on Saturday, August 15th. Sadly, that blast did kill at least seven people and injured nearly 100.

In my case I was at my hotel a few miles away when the explosion occurred. I'm a news correspondent by profession and as you might guess, I did what any newsman would do in a situation like this. I quickly began filing news reports, in my case for the Voice of America.

Jim McLaughlin, T6AF, lives a lot closer to the explosion than I do. He reports a couple of windows in his residence adjacent to the US Embassy, were blown out but his shack is fine. Thankfully, he was not there at the time.

Ironically Jim and I had held our first eyeball QSO only 24 hours earlier. In fact, we met very close to the spot where the bomb went off. That was near the front gate of NATO's military headquarters in the Afghan capital. As far as we know, we may be the only two hams who are actually on the air from this war torn nation.

In Kabul, Afghanistan, I'm Steve Herman, T6AD, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Steve adds that like true hams, by the end of the day, both he and Jim were back on the air. In Steve's case he operates using a Yaesu FT-897 at 100 watts into a G5RV antenna just above what he calls a hot tin roof. You can usually find him on 15, 20, 30 and 40 meters operating either CW and PSK. Steve adds that the noise level in Kabul is nearly always S9 and that most signals are very weak. Because of this he says that your patience in making a QSO happen is very much appreciated. (T6AD, ARNewsline(tm))

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: 2000 YEMEN OPERATION GRANTED DXCC STATUS

Its taken almost a decade but the ARRL DXCC Desk has finally approved the 7O1YGF April 16 through April 26, 2000 operation from Yemen for DXCC accreditation. According to a release from Awards Branch Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, after reviewing recently received information regarding the operation, and after additional dialogue with a leader of the DXpedition, the DXCC desk has approved this operation.

Moore says that considering the length of time that has passed since this operation, he is asking that DXCC participants who would like to claim credit for 7O1YGF follow one of two options. The first is to send their 7O1YGF card by itself to DXCC with a SASE, or return postage if outside the United States. The DXCC will process the card and applicants will not be charged a submission fee.

The alternative is to bring the card to a DXCC Card Checker. The card checker will forward the confirmation to the DXCC desk for processing. Again, there will be no submission fee if this is a single-card submission but you must fill out an application form.

In all other cases applicants can include their QSL card with their next submission, and it will be handled normally. However 7O1YGF cards included with other cards will be handled as part of a normal submission and a normal fee will apply.

And less we forget. The cutoff date for the 2009 DXCC Annual listing and Honor Roll list is December 31st. We will have more DX related news later on in this weeks Newsline report. (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: GAREC-2009 AUGUST 24 AND 25

The Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference, will be held on August 24thnand 25th in Tokyo, Japan. Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more:

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Hosted this year by the Japan Amateur Radio League, the theme of the 2009 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications or GAREC Conference will be "Emergency Communications across Borders." As such, the program will include presentations regarding amateur radio operations during disasters that occurred since last year's conference. There will also be discussions concerning new developments in communications and technology and their application in ham radio emergency communications.

Holding the conference in Tokyo also marks the first time at a Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications will have taken place in ITU Region 3. The first and the second conferences were in Finland in ITU Region 1. The third was here in the USA in Huntsville, Alabama in ITU Region 2. Then it was back to Region 1 in 2008 for the fourth that was held in Germany.

By the way, for those interested in some heavy rescue radio related reading, the proceedings of the 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008 conferences can be found at the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications website. A link to it is in this weeks printed Newsline report.

Reporting from Scottsdale, Arizona, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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GAREC 2009 is being held in conjunction with the Japan Amateur Radio League's annual Tokyo Ham Fair. Having these rescue radio gatherings annually has become an important factor in developing world standardization of ham radio communications in times of across borders or global emergency communications needs. More is on-line at www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec/ (Southgate)

**

RADIO REGULATION: FCC STARTS BLOGGING AND TWEETING

Back in the United States, the FCC is now blogging and tweeting. As a result of Chairman Julius Genachowski stated goal that expansion of broadband internet access is at the top of his list of priorities, the regulatory agency has created an on-line blog and has opened a Twitter account as ways of better keeping the public informed on what it is doing on a day to day and hour to hour basis

Both services began on Tuesday, August 18th. In his first post on the new blog Chairman Genachowski stated that the feedback, ideas, and discussions generated will be critical in developing the best possible National Broadband plan possible for the nation. He added that be believes that the new FCC blog demonstrates that the Internet is changing and expanding the way Americans communicate. This, providing them with what he sees as unparalleled access to information.

In conjunction with the blog the FCC is also now operating an account on the Twitter social networking site. Its account that can be

accessed at @fccdotgov.

Its believed that the FCC will use Twitter tweets to help promote new initiatives and at the same time press for public involvement on these issues. Tweets are the 140 character messages that Twitter allows. What's not likely is a two-way dialogue between the FCC and others using Twitter. At least the FCC is not following any other Twitter accounts at this time. (FCC and published news reports)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K6OX repeater serving the city of Lancaster California and the entire Antelope Valley.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: SEPTEMBER MEETING IN DC TO DISCUSS TEXTING WHILE MOBILE

A national ban against texting and possibly other forms of communication while mobile could be in the nations future. This with word that Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood plans to assemble a group of experts to figure out what to do about drivers who use cell phones and do texting while behind the wheel. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reports:

--

In an August 4th release Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood says that he intends to gather safety advocates, law enforcement and transportation officials, members of Congress and scholars who have studied distracted driving for a summit meeting in September in Washington D.C.. In his statement Secretary LaHood said that everyone knows that text messaging while driving is dangerous and the government is going to do something about it.

While no mention was made regarding the use of two-way radio while driving a vehicle this should be of concern to hams who like to operate mobile in motion. If some sort of federal ban on the use of electronic communications devices while driving does come about it could easily be broad based and all inclusive. This in turn could place hams, CB operators and other two-way radio users in the position of having to seek after the fact exemptions to continue the operations they have safely performed for years.

As we go to air there are fourteen states plus the District of Columbia that have passed laws banning text messaging while driving. Also, many states require the use of hands free devices to use cellular voice telephones while in motion although most have specific exemptions included for federally licensed ham radio operators.

LaHood indicates that that summit meeting will present several recommendations for specific actions to address the problem of distracted drivers on a national level. For ham radio it means keeping a close eye one the outcome and any laws that such a gathering of experts might recommend.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

And in a related development ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written a letter to the National Safety Council To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers. In his note to NSC President Janet Froetscher, Harrison explained that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster. Harrison noted that the ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that amateur radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road. (Published news report and ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NEW HAM RADIO HOTLINE IN INDIA

Ham radio based rescue radio continues to grow in India. Its latest expansion is a new joint agreement announced on Wednesday, August 12th between the Amateur Radio Society of India and the Indian Red Cross Society to establish a radio hotline. It was inaugurated by Governor of Karnataka, and is located on the premises of the Red Cross Society.

The facility installed at the station includes, high frequency and VHF radios and antennas that can be used for local, as well as long distance communications. The station has been assigned the call VU2ZH by the Ministry of Communication, Government of India.

According to the society, ham radio operators in India have provided communication links during the Indian Ocean tsunami, Latur earthquake, Koyna dam disaster and during numerous floods and hurricanes, in the recent past.

(Deccan Hearald)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NHC HAM STATION FEATURED IN NATIONAL DURACELL COMMERCIAL

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center is featured in a 60 second radio spot for Duracell batteries. The commercial, which begins airing this month, highlights the efforts of the volunteers who man and assist the ham radio operations for National Hurricane Center station WX4NHC.

With a voice over by actor Jeff Bridges, the spot describes the important role that radio amateurs play during severe weather conditions by enabling communications with police and fire departments along with other first responders when electrical service and telephones go away. The narration underscores the importance of a reliable battery to power the portable ham radio gear which the spot describes as essential to the work of WX4NHC.

The commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season. It should help promote awareness of the vital public service role played by amateur radio. You can hear the new Duracell ham radio spot at the link found at www dot arnewsline dot org

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: A REVIEW OF THE ARRL SW DIVISION CONVENTION

Turning to the ham radio social scene, the August 15th one day convention in Santa Barbara, California, that took the place of the usual 3 day ARRL Southwestern Division show that was almost cancelled earlier this year appears to have been more than a mild success. According to Dave Bell,, W6AQ, about 500 or so drove from sweltering Los Angeles and other areas to the seashore community with 450 signed up for the famed Santa Barbara barbecue lunch alone.

Not a lot of big name exhibitors but some important names were there. These included Ham Radio Outlet, Vertex-Standard Yaesu, and Elecraft. In fact Elecraft showed their new P3 Pan-Adapter for the first time. W6AQ was told that the techs at Elecraft literally finished putting together this prototype at 2 AM in the morning and then drove all the way down from Aptos California to be in Santa Barbara in time for the gates to open.

The ARRL was represented by Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI and Washington attorney Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD. And while small by comparison to any past ARRL Southwestern Division Convention that anyone can remember, nobody is complaining. In fact there are at least 500 hams who are singing the praises of the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club which heroically stepped forward and picked up the pieces at the last minute, when the original sponsoring group pulled out. Or put another way, sometimes the best things come in the smallest packages.

(W6AQ)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: BOB HEIL K9EID TO PERFORM ORGAN CONCERT IN SACRAMENTO

Some names in the news. First up is ham radio's "Mr. Audio," Bob Heil, K9EID. Bob will perform in concert on the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at the California Auto Museum in Sacramento, California on Sunday, September 27th. The performance starts at 2 p.m. Pacific

Daylight Time and is free with a paid museum admission fee.

As some of you may know, Bob learned the art of playing theater organ a student of legendary organist Stan Kann. In making the announcement of the upcoming concert Bob says that he has always loved the rich, pretty sounds of the Wurlitzer. Now he is looking forward to sharing the experience with both his amateur radio friends and his theater organ fans in the Sacramento area.

Again the concert is free with a paid admission to the museum. For more information, call (916) 442-6802 or take your web browser to www dot sierrachapteratos dot org.

(CGC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: THREE NEW ARRL SM'S ELECTED

Los Angeles, California has a new ARRL Section Manager. This with word that David Greenhut, N6HD, of Woodland Hills, has been elected to that post after beating out 11 term incumbent Phineas Icenbice, W6BF. Greenhut received 838 votes while Icenbice garnered only 149.

Meantime in South Texas, Lee H. Cooper, W6LHC, was elected Section Manager with 647 votes. Challengers Lou Everett, Sr, WA5LOU, received 601 votes and Gary Tangrady, K5GST, of San Antonio, received 142. Cooper will be taking on the Section Manager's role from Ray Taylor, N5NAV, of San Antonio. Section Manager since 1997, Taylor decided not to run for another term.

And Georgia will be getting a new Section Manager starting on October 1st. This as Eugene "Gene" Clark, W4AYK steps into the position taking over from Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, who has been Section Manager since 2002. Swiderski, who is the co-recipient of this year's Joe Knight Distinguished Service Award, decided not to run for another term of office. Clark has been the Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator for the last year and was a District Emergency Coordinator prior to that appointment.

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO AWARDS: OMIK SCHOLARSHIP FUND SURPASSESW $100,000 AWARDED

The OMIK Radio Scholarship Fund has now surpassed $100,000.00 in educational monies awarded. This with word from Richard Reese, WA8DBW, that the fund presented a $1000 check to Caitlin Grey of Wadsworth, Ohio, to help defray her future education costs.

Reese says that Caitlin Grey was the top recipient selected from a nationwide list of applicants. She graduated with honors from Wadsworth High School in May of 2009. While attending, she was involved in her Student Council, the National Honor Society, and several important projects. She was also a member of the yearbook staff and a varsity cheerleader an academic and athletic letterman and received the United States Achievement Academy award of excellence in a foreign language.

The OMIK Scholarship Fund is a separate organization of the OMIK Amateur Radio Association, Inc. The fund was established to manage and administer the OMIK sponsored scholarship program. According WA8DBW, the Fund's goal is to provide financial assistance to deserving youth who are pursuing education beyond high school.

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: FAR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

And the Foundation for Amateur Radio has announced the list of recipients for the 2009 through 2010 academic year scholarship awards. Topping the list is 2008 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Emily Stewart, KC0PTL, of Leavenworth, Kansas. Emily will be receiving a $1000 grant from the Ralph V. "Andy" Anderson, K0NL, Memorial Scholarship which is one of many administered by the foundation.

A complete list of all the recipients of this latest series of Foundation for Amateur Radio administered scholarship grants can be found on the front newspage at QRZ.com. We at the Amateur Radio congratulate Emily and all of this years scholarship award winners and thank the Foundation for Amateur Radio for its ongoing work to make these educational grants available each year.

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: NEW ON-LINE HAMSAT MAP

A map showing the current satellite location for most of the amateur satellites are now available on the AMSAT web site. From the AMSAT front page, use the left hand side navigation, go to the 'Satellite Information' navigation box, then select 'Satellite Status. Next click on an underlined satellite name in the left hand column. This will display a satellite summary, scroll to the bottom of the page and there will be a map showing the current location of that satellite and the illuminated and dark portions of the earth. This feature can be used for a quick check of the satellite's location or to verify that your tracking program was setup correctly. W2GPS and N2YO are the duo who have provided this useful new feature. (WA4SXM)

**

RADIO AND SPACE: AIR FOCE PERMITS AMSAT TO CONTINUE KEPS

AMSAT North America has received approval from the Air Force Space Command to continue re-distribution of Keplerian elements data sourced from the Space Track website.. This means that the AMSAT Keplerian Elements in verbose format and the 2-line format can be freely distributed by those who receive them from AMSAT. The agreement covers the period of April 1, 2009 to April 1, 2010. (WA5QGD, ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT-UK COLOQUIUM VIDEOS NOW ON LINE

Videos of the presentations at this years AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium are now available to watch on the British Amateur Television Club website. All 18 sessions can be seen at www.batc.tv (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: OFCOM SAYS OK TO SPECIAL EVENT SCOTLAND LOCATOR

U-K telecommunications regulator Ofcom will permit Scottish hams to participate in the upcoming Homecoming Scotland celebrations. Individual qualifying licensees will be able to obtain a special temporary authority enabling them to use the Regional Secondary Locator of the letter A for Alba to identify their station as being situated in Scotland. This locator will be available in addition to the existing identifier M, though only one locator should be used in a callsign. The permit to do this will not be valid for stations situated outside Scotland. Homecoming Scotland is an event celebrating that nations contributions to the world. (Southgate)

**

ON THE AIR: 30 METER MULTI-MODE WEEKEND

August 22nd to the 23rd has been designated as 30 Meter Multi-Mode Weekend. The objective is to promote experimenting and using different digital modes on unique 30 Meter Band. A number of digital mode groups will be participating this weekend so if you wanted to try out a mode you have thought about trying here is your chance to get on the 30 Meter Band to try those digital modes and/or try a digital modes software that includes multiple digital modes, More information is at www.hamspots.net/30 (KB9UMT)

**

BREAK 3

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

ON THE AIR: VHF ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Meantime if you want to try your luck DXing VHF across the Atlantic pond, be aware that Sunday, August 30th is the date for the Ireland's Autumn 2 Meter Counties Contest. This event takes place between 14.00 and 16.00 local time in Ireland. The full rules are available on the IRTS website under the contest tab. QSL any stations you work as directed by them on the air. DX

In DX, word that G4MKP, will be active stroke 5B from Cypress through August 25th. His activity will be mainly CW and RTTY on 80 through 10 meters. Look for him during the mornings and evenings on or around 7.010, 14.010, 21.010 and 28.020 MHz running Morse. His RTTY anywhere in the band segment. QSL via M0URX, direct or via E-mail request for a bureau QSL.

PA2AM, will be active as 9H3DZ from Malta between September 4th to the 14th. His operation will be active mostly on 30, 17 and 12 meters using CW and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign.

3B7FQ will be active from St. Brandon Island until the end of August. He will operate CW and SSB in his spare time and will use the island's G5RV and a vertical with a 100 watt transceiver powered by a 12 volt battery that will be charged daily. QSL via K5XK. He says that direct is preferred.

F2VX and F6FYD will be active portable 4J from Azerbaijan until August 29th. August. They will operate SSB on the HF bands. QSL via their home calls, either direct or via the bureau.

Lastly, W8SMH has just received his Kenyan license and will active portable 5Z4 from Nairobi for the next 3 years. Steve is on assignment with the Salvation Army as second in command at their headquarters in Nairobi. His travel schedule may limit his operating, and he is a rookie at DX operations so please be patient. His other limiting factor is that Nairobi is experiencing power shortages and as a result they are doing rolling blackouts 2 or 3 days a week in his area. Steve's equipment is an Icom IC-718, dipoles and a multi-band vertical. QSL direct to his home callsign on QRZ.com with an IRC or SASE.

(Above from various DX News sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: ANDREW KOENIG RESENTED WITH 2009 YHOTY AWARD

And finally this week its time to celebrate the achievements of another of the nations young radio amateurs. His name is Andrew Koenig, callsign KE5GDB, and on Saturday, August 15th he was introduced at the Huntsville Hamfest as the 2009 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year. Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, represented Amateur Radio Newsline at the

presentation and also has this report:

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While the tropics were heating up in the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico it was brilliant sunshine in Huntsville Alabama, where we honored a brilliant young man as the recipient of the 2009 Young Ham Of The Year award, Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB. Andrew is a 15 year old rising star in the ham radio and space radio world. He not only helped set up a successful ARISS school contact but he also helps train astronauts in the ins & outs of talking to students participating in these contacts at the Johnson Space Center in his hometown of Houston, Texas. He has also helped in the maintenance and moderation of W5KUB's chat room on his hamfest video website. He's an engaging young man who is going places. But he didn't do it alone:

--

Award presentation audio. Hear it by downloading the MP3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Of course, we weren't alone in this either. Corporate sponsor CQ publishing's Rich Moseson, W2VU on what it takes to win this award:

--

Award presentation audio. Hear it by downloading the MP3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Rich presented Andrew with a week at Spacecamp courtesy of CQ Magazine as well as copies of all of their other publications. But that's not all. Yeasu's Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV:

--

Award presentation audio. Hear it by downloading the MP3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Next up was Heil Sound's Chip Margelli, K7JA.

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Award presentation audio. Hear it by downloading the MP3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

Chip of course pulling out his cellphone making reference to his now-famous appearance on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno. Next up was Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, ARRL Southeastern Division Director with

congratulations for Andrew:

--

Award presentation audio. Hear it by downloading the MP3 version of this weeks newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

I dedicated this years award in the memory of a great friend to Newsline, Sandy Donahue, W4RU who passed away in May of this year. Sandy was instrumental in getting the award to Huntsville some 15 years ago and served as a greeter, taxi service or whatever we needed him to do for the winner. Sandy was a friend to all and we at the Amateur Radio Newsline miss him very much. Again, congratulations to Andrew Koenig, KE5GDB, your 2009 Young Ham Of The Year.

Thanks again to our corporate sponsors, CQ Publishing, Vertex Standard Yaesu, Heil Sound, Dave Bell W6AQ for the fine plaque, and Charlie Emerson, N4OKL and all at the Huntsville Hamfest for having us. We'll see you again next year on the third weekend in August for the 2010 Young Ham Of The Year award.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW.

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Between Santa Barbara and Huntsville it was two great ham radio conventions and one very happy teenage ham. (AE5DW, ARNewsline(tm), YHOTY)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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393. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 33 (Friday, August 21, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-21 21:04:54 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090821204229.656A932573@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1803
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 33
August 21, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Santa Cruz Hams Provide Support During Wildfires
* + Hurricane Bill Downgraded to Category 2; Amateur Radio Hurricane
Nets Ready
* + HPM/140 Birthday Celebration Event Coming Next Month
* + ARRL Section Manager Election Results
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* + ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ 7O1YGF Now on Logbook of The World
+ FCC Blogs, Twitters

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> SANTA CRUZ HAMS PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING WILDFIRES

As wildfires threaten the central California coast near Santa Cruz --
located between San Jose and Monterey -- area radio amateurs have been
providing support to law enforcement and fire authorities. According to
Santa Cruz County Public Information Officer Bill Conklin, AF6OH, the
Santa Cruz County Emergency Operations Center requested support from
ARES on Wednesday, August 12: "We activated and established an informal
Net to provide fire support resources." Just two days later, Governor
Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a State of Emergency for Santa Cruz
County.
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On Thursday, three amateurs staffed the County's Emergency Operations Center for the ARES Net, beginning at 5 AM and going for 16 hours. Monterey County ARES District Emergency Coordinator Dave Burbidge, W6IIQ, also helped to provide coverage.

"Once we were activated, about 30 amateurs signed in to a Resource Net on a local repeater managed by Bob Wolbert, K6XX," Conklin said. "These hams were assigned various duties, including providing support for animal rescue operations. Some were assigned to specific locations in order to support law enforcement and fire authorities. The Santa Cruz Chapter of the American Red Cross initiated staffing and evacuation centers on Wednesday night, and we deployed the ARES Step-Van to support a shelter in Davenport, about 15 miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1. Due to the low volume of shelter clients, these facilities did not require further staffing by local ARES team members."

Officials declared a mandatory evacuation in the affected area on Thursday, namely for the towns of Swanton and Bonny Doon; an estimated 2500 people were evacuated from their homes. On Sunday, officials allowed residents from Bonny Doon who had been evacuated to return to their homes, but warned them to be on a state of alert and to be ready to move as needed.

Dubbed the Lockheed Fire, the blaze was 90 percent contained on Friday, August 21. More than 7500 acres are affected by the blaze; the cause of the fire is under investigation. Approximately 2000 firefighters -- equipped with almost 300 fire engines, 14 helicopters, 30 bulldozers, six air tankers and 21 water tenders -- were trying to get the fires under last weekend. As of August 21, there are 1595 fire personnel on site with 125 engines and five helicopters. To date, no homes have been destroyed by the fire, but 13 outbuildings were burned to the ground. The damage is estimated at $21.4 million.

Conklin said that the Santa Cruz County Equine Rescue Team was activated in response to the fire, providing large animal rescue support. "In the past year, many members of the team received their Amateur Radio license," he explained. "They were instrumental in organizing and rescuing horses, llamas, alpacas, goats, sheep, chickens and ducks, as well as arranging transport for 100 head of cattle. Working in conjunction with County of Santa Cruz County Animal Services, they were able to transport and relocate the animals to safety at two sites within the county."

Volunteers staged an equine and large animal rescue at the cement plant in Davenport. A shelter for smaller animals was established at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds in Watsonville, about 15 miles south of the City of Santa Cruz.

The weather continues to be a major concern, as do the steep terrain and limited access to the fire's perimeter, Conklin said: "Conditions continue to be very fluid and may change quickly based on weather factors. Firefighters will continue to construct fire line around the perimeter of the fire." Governor Schwarzenegger visited the Fire

Operations Center in Watsonville and thanked all of the firefighters for their assistance.

"Once again, Amateur Radio and ARES proved to be an essential resource in times of emergency," Conklin said. "The citizens of Santa Cruz County are fortunate to have this trained, technical resource available to provide these essential communications resources."

==> HURRICANE BILL DOWNGRADED TO CATEGORY 2; AMATEUR RADIO HURRICANE NETS READY

Now that Tropical Storms Ana and Claudette have dissipated, Hurricane Bill -- downgraded from a Category 4 storm to a Category 2 storm -- is churning its way across the Atlantic with sustained winds near 110 miles per hour. Even though the storm's projected path does not make landfall in the US, hams affiliated with the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) and the VoIP Hurricane Net (VoIPWX) are ready to provide communications support.

Hurricane Watch Net

As Bill approached, HWN Manager Dave Lefavour, W7GOX, told the ARRL that Net members are "limbering up their microphones and checking their antennas. We're all very carefully watching the storm. We could activate sometime during the next few days, based on the forecast tracks and intensity. We always ask all of our Amateur Radio friends and any new stations that might have data for us in the Atlantic, Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf coastal areas to dust off their weather instruments. We'll probably need to establish communications with them very soon."

The HWN -- operating on 14.325 MHz -- relays real-time weather observations to WX4NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/> at the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>. "We want all of our reporting stations, especially those closer to the US, to keep in mind that we're also prepared to operate the HWN on 7.168 MHz or 3.668 MHz," Lefavour explained. "If propagation is such that we cannot maintain contact with reporting stations on 14.325 MHz, we'll open a Net on one or the other of those frequencies. Plans are to try 40 meters first, with 80 meters as our last choice of bands."

Lefavour encouraged hams to monitor the HWN Web site <http://www.hwn.org/> for Net activation plans: "We have placed data products from the NHC on the HWN Web site, including maps and charts of tropical storm activity."

VoIP Hurricane Net

The VoIP Hurricane Net -- which meets weekly during the hurricane season months of June-November and monthly from December-May -- has also been monitored Tropical Storms Ana and Claudette last week and is closely monitoring the progress of Hurricane Bill this week <http://www.voipwx.net/>.

"We are continuing to closely monitor the storm's progress," said VoIP Hurricane Net Director of Operations Rob Macedo, KD1CY. "Since 2002, we have been gathering surface reports to help WX4NHC save lives," he said. "The Net activates whenever there is a landfalling hurricane and will review any and all sources to gather surface data for WX4NHC as required."

The weekly VoIPWX Net had a surge in activity last week as Tropical Storms Ana, Bill and Claudette formed almost right on top of each other. Macedo told the ARRL that hams, many of whom are in hurricane-prone areas, were informed of the advisories for each tropical system. "The Net also informally activated as Claudette made landfall as a tropical storm in the Florida Panhandle," he explained. "The VoIP Hurricane Net Activation Policy <http://www.voipwx.net/node/235> is to activate during hurricanes, but will sometimes activate in the event of strong tropical storms that are near hurricane strength."

The VoIP Hurricane Net meets every Saturday evening at 8 PM EDT (0000 UTC Sunday) on the *WX-TALK* EchoLink Conference Node: 7203/IRLP Reflector 9219 system. When hurricanes threaten land, the Net meets and stays active as long as required on the system with listen-only EchoLink conferences and IRLP systems and streaming audio systems available.

>From the National Hurricane Center

At 1800 UTC on Friday, August 21, the center of Hurricane Bill was located about 290 miles (465 km) south-southwest of Bermuda and about 695 miles southeast of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Bill is moving toward the northwest at a speed near 18 MPH (30 km/hr). This track is expected to continue through Saturday. The core of Hurricane Bill is expected to pass over open waters between Bermuda and the East Coast of the United States early Saturday. Large swells generated by this hurricane are affecting Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, the Bahamas and Bermuda, moving to East Coast of the US and the Atlantic Maritimes of Canada during the next day or two. These swells will likely cause extremely dangerous surf and life-threatening rip currents.

The Bermuda Weather Service has issued a hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning for Bermuda. A hurricane watch means that hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 36 hours.

==> HPM/140 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION EVENT COMING NEXT MONTH

The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday celebration is back! This year, the ARRL is honoring the 140th anniversary of the birth of the League's first president and cofounder. Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was born September 2, 1869 and died February 17, 1936, in a Colorado hospital of complications stemming from a throat infection; his widow died just nine days later.

The operating event is open to all amateurs, and the goal is straightforward: Find the stations adding /140 to their call signs, and contact as many as possible during the event period, September 2-9. Who is eligible to sign /140? ARRL members who hold ARRL appointments, ARRL

elected volunteers (such as ARRL Directors and Section Managers), ARRL Life Members, ARRL Headquarters staff and VEs, AECs, QSL bureau workers and awards managers (who are ARRL members). The complete list of eligible positions can be found on page 20 of the September 2009 issue of QST. If you work at least 25 /140 stations, an attractive certificate can be yours! The certificate can be endorsed in increments of 25 QSOs, up to 100.

Time Period: 0000 UTC September 2 until 2400 UTC September 9.

Exchange: All stations signing /140 send RS(T), their appointment and their name; others send RS(T) and their name.

Eligibility: All amateur stations may participate. ARRL Life Members, and those persons holding ARRL appointments, elected positions or ARRL HQ staff, may add /140 to their call signs for the duration of the celebration. Volunteer Examiners, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, QSL Bureau workers, Registered Instructors and Awards Managers who are ARRL members are also invited to participate.

Miscellaneous: /140 stations may be contacted on any band or mode for credit. You can work a station once per band and mode. Repeater contacts are valid for credit, but please be considerate of the users during a repeater's busy periods. All /140 stations are encouraged to be as active as possible on local repeaters and nets. The certificate is available for making at least 25 contacts with /140 stations, with endorsement increments of 25, and a maximum endorsement of 100. To receive the award, send in a log extract with the date, time, band, call sign worked and exchange for each /140 contact. Include your name, call sign and address, and tell us how many /140 stations you worked. Mail everything to HPM/140 Celebration, c/o W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. You can also send in your entry on a disk or CD in regular text format. All entries must be accompanied by a check or money order for $5 (US) payable to ARRL. Please make sure your entry is postmarked by October 9, 2009.

==> ARRL SECTION MANAGER ELECTION RESULTS

Of the nine Sections holding Section Manager elections this month, three will be getting new Section Managers: Los Angeles, South Texas and Georgia. The Sacramento Valley, Eastern Washington, Colorado, Western Washington, West Virginia and San Francisco Sections will keep their incumbent Section Managers. The new terms of office start October 1, 2009. Ballots were counted at ARRL Headquarters on Tuesday, August 18.

In Los Angeles, David Greenhut, N6HD, of Woodland Hills, was elected as the new Section Manager with 838 votes. He defeated incumbent Phineas Icenbice, W6BF, who received 149 votes. Icenbice has been the Los Angeles Section Manager for 11 straight terms of office since October 1, 1987. Greenhut, a licensed radio amateur for 35 years, has a strong interest in ARES and emergency communications; he has served as the District Emergency Coordinator for the Northwest District of the Los

Angeles County since 2006.

With 647 votes, Lee H. Cooper, W6LHC, of Leander, was elected Section Manager of the South Texas Section. Challengers Lou Everett, Sr, WA5LOU, of Kennard, received 601 votes and Gary Tangrady, K5GST, of San Antonio, received 142 votes. Cooper, presently the South Texas Section Public Information Coordinator, is active in emergency communications, representing ARES on the newly formed State Communications Coordination Group. He was also the Travis County Emergency Coordinator from 2000-2004. Cooper will be taking on the Section Manager's role from Ray Taylor, N5NAV, of San Antonio. Section Manager since 1997, Taylor decided not to run for another term of office.

In Georgia, Eugene "Gene" Clark, W4AYK, of Albany, will be stepping into the Section Manger's position. He will be taking over from Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, who has been Section Manager since 2002. Swiderski, co-recipient of this year's Joe Knight Distinguished Service Award, decided not to run for another term of office. Clark has been the Georgia Section Emergency Coordinator for the last year and was a District Emergency Coordinator prior to that appointment.

The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their next two year terms of office beginning October 1, 2009: Ron Murdock, W6KJ, Sacramento Valley; Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, Eastern Washington; Jeff Ryan, K0RM, Colorado; Jim Pace, K7CEX, Western Washington; Ann Rinehart, KA8ZGY, West Virginia; and Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, San Francisco.

==> THE LOCAL CLUB RESOURCE

Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, shares his views on how clubs play an important role in Amateur Radio. Fusaro is Assistant Manager of the ARRL's Membership and Volunteer Programs Department. He is also the ARRL Affiliated Club/Mentor Program Supervisor.

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem, regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail, so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching. The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks whom we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally, I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals, each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club. If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club, there is the usual cast of characters who add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help. Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this? Two hams will be in QSO -- perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair -- when another radio operator will break in with a helpful suggestion. This situation may have happened to you, or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something, the closest resource is your local club. On the surface, the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved, you will find that it is actually very productive.

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the 80-20 rule is a simple expression that 80 percent of the effects come from 20 percent of the causes. As applied in the business world, this would be 80 percent of the sales are driven by 20 percent of the customers. In a club, the percentages may be slightly different, but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen.

This is not to suggest that 80 percent of the members do not participate, but without a "sparkplug," some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work? Of course, it would be much more fun without the negative comments, but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock, someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work: "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society -- and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude, asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course, we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years, we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the

old-timer, even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved.

Don't know where you local club is? Use the ARRL Affiliated Club search <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.phtml>. You can reach Fusaro by e-mail <w3iz@arrl.org>.

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Suspended in the blinding, sunlit blue" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: The quiet Sun continues to baffle us. If there are no sunspots today -- and I don't expect any to emerge -- this will be the 42nd day in a row with no sunspots; July 10 was the last day we saw any spots. There is really no way to predict when the next sunspot will appear. If we see no sunspots through the end of the month, then nearly 80 percent of 2009 so far will have been spotless. Sunspot numbers for August 13-19 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.2, 67.6, 68.1, 68.8, 68.1, 67.4 and 67.1 with a mean of 67.8. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 4, 3, 3, 3, 4 and 10 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 3, 2, 1, 0, 2, 2 and 8 with a mean of 2.6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Dana Gioia's "California Hills in August" <http://www.danagioia.net/poems/californiahills.htm>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for an NCCC Sprint on August 21. Check out the Hawaii QSO Party and the Ohio QSO Party on August 22-23. The SKCC Sprint is on August 26. Next week, there is another NCCC Sprint on August 28. The Kansas QSO Party is August 29-30. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, August 23, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, September 4, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* 7O1YGF Now on Logbook of The World: ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L reports that the logs for the 2000 DXpedition to Yemen, 7O1YGF, have been uploaded to Logbook of The World (LoTW) <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>. Last week, Moore announced that after more than an eight year delay, the DXCC Desk approved the operation after a review of "recently received information," as well as "additional dialogue" with the DXpedition leader <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/12/11022/?nc=1>. Moore outlined the process to receive credit via LoTW for 7O1YGF:
* As with paper applications, if you submitted 7O1YGF in the past and had it rejected, we will accept an e-application via LoTW; you will not be charged a submission fee for the 7O1YGF submission only.
* Make sure you have uploaded your QSOs. DXCC cannot open and search the logs for your QSO, since doing this will not show the match that is required for an LoTW confirmation.
* Access your account and begin the application process.
* If you select only 7O1YGF QSOs, you will not be assessed the fees that LoTW will report back to you. If you choose other QSOs, a regular submission fee will apply;
* Complete the application (all four parts) and DXCC will place your e-application on the list for processing.

* A special note for 7O1YGF applications only: On Part 4 of the LoTW application, click "Payment by mail." This step is very important to assure proper handling. If you clicked on Part 1 for any QSOs other than 7O1YGF you must make proper payment. This is only for 7O1YGF submissions. Applications with other QSOs will be handled and charged as a regular submission.
* DXCC will not acknowledge completion of the application. When finished, your numbers in LoTW will reflect the completion of your e-application.
* If you achieve Honor Roll or Top of the Honor Roll from this submission and you would like to order the wall plaque, send Moore an e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org>, or you can fax your order or send the order form by regular mail.

* FCC Blogs, Twitters: On Tuesday, August 18, the Federal Communication jumped on the technological bandwagon and began "Twittering." Twitter <http://twitter.com/> allows text-based posts of up to 140 characters displayed on the author's profile page and delivered to the author's subscribers; to date, the FCC's Twitter page has almost 1900 followers. The FCC has also started a blog called Blogband <http://blog.broadband.gov/>. According to Chairman Julius Genachowski (who made the first post), "Blogband is part of the FCC's commitment to an open and participatory process. Blogband will keep people up-to-date about the work the FCC is doing and the progress we're making. But we want it to be a two-way conversation." Readers may leave comments after each post, but comments will be monitored during normal business hours and will be reviewed as "speedily as possible" before posting. "As this blog demonstrates, the Internet is changing and expanding the way Americans communicate, providing them with unparalleled access to information." Genachowski wrote. "So visit Blogband often to keep up with the latest news and -- more importantly -- get involved." The FCC pointed out that commenting in the blog "is not a substitute for submitting a formal comment in the record of a specific Commission proceeding." Find the FCC's Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/fccdotgov>.

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The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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394. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-22 06:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1250920801@panix.com>
Source record: 1804
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

395. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-22 06:05:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1250921100@panix.com>
Source record: 1805
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

396. NTS Training

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-24 22:00:54 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <7fggrtF2lqgoiU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1806

I am working on putting together an computer (online, downloadable,etc.)
based training package for learning to properly handle National Traffic
System (NTS) messages.

First, is there already something out there? I don't want to re-invent
any wheels here. Second, if not, does anybody have audio recordings
of an NTS traffic net (voice, not CW) that we could use both as an
example, and ideally for actual practice.

Or, does anybody here know if there are any NTS traffic nets that
I can hear and record myself in the PDX area? There was a weekly
practice sked many months (years?) ago, I remember coming across
them every so often. But now when I went out to look, I can't find
anything.

Please reply here in this newsgroup. Thanks
Richard KE7GKP

397. Re: NTS Training

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-25 14:57:09 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7ficavF2l6cuvU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1807

Richard Crowley wrote:
> I am working on putting together an computer (online, downloadable,etc.)
> based training package for learning to properly handle National Traffic
> System (NTS) messages.
>
> First, is there already something out there? I don't want to re-invent
> any wheels here. Second, if not, does anybody have audio recordings
> of an NTS traffic net (voice, not CW) that we could use both as an
> example, and ideally for actual practice.
>
> Or, does anybody here know if there are any NTS traffic nets that
> I can hear and record myself in the PDX area? There was a weekly
> practice sked many months (years?) ago, I remember coming across
> them every so often. But now when I went out to look, I can't find
> anything.

There is quite a bit of information available on the ARRL web site. As
for finding an actual net, check the net directory at
http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/client/netsearch.html

Might I suggest that if you're planning to create audio examples it
makes more sense to record them using people who are reading from
scripts. I say this because you'll get better quality audio, have
control of what you're recording, and because most of the voice NTS nets
that I've heard in the past decade or so are not the kind of operation
that I'd want to use as an example of how to do it right.

You might consider teaching the basic skills rather than focusing on a
specific protocol for formal traffic. Knowing how to send and receive
traffic is a much different, basic, and useful skill than knowing how to
put it in the NTS format. People who haven't done it equate this with
"talk" and "write", but there's a lot more to it than that. When your
students can relay a list of ten items like "fifteen packages of twenty
infant size diapers" from point A to point B _with zero errors_, then it
is time to think about specific traffic protocol wrappers.

73, Steve KB9X

398. Offutt Air Force Base (Nebraska) Air Show

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-27 14:52:51 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090827135604.C36F031174@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1808
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.dx,rec.radio.info

I am delighted to forward this email from Dennis Mitchell, KC0YKN. It looks like a great event and a lot of fun! Nice job, Dennis!

73, Art K0AIZ

Please feel free to forward this e-mail to anyone you believe might be interested. It is being sent to BARC & SACMARC club members as well as other selected amateurs.

Sarpy County's big weekend is upon us. This Saturday and Sunday Offutt Air Force Base will open their gates to the public for their 2009 Open House and Air Show (http://www.offuttairshow.com/). The U.S. Navy Blue Angels are the headline performers this year, but Amateur Radio will be there as well.

The Bellevue Amateur Radio Club (BARC) and the Strategic Air Command Memorial Amateur Radio Club (SACMARC) have partnered to setup a special event station at the air show. We'll be operating Saturday and Sunday using SACMARC's K0GRL callsign in honor of General Curtis LeMay's time as Commander in Chief of Strategic Air Command at Offutt AFB. If you'd like to join us from home, we plan to operate on 20 meters, on or about 14.247 Mhz.

The special event station will be operating on the flight line among the throngs expected to visit the air show. This gives us a chance to show off ham radio and tell visitors about our hobby. With the forecast weather this weekend (sunny with highs in the mid 70's) it will be a beautiful day to be outside.

This is a perfect opportunity for anyone who doesn't have an HF station at home (or doesn't have HF operating privileges) to get on the air. There will be Extra class control operators, so any ham, or even a non-ham, is welcome to spend some time at the microphone. We also need people to help log contacts and talk about amateur radio with people wandering by. If you have amateur radio related apparel this is a great time to wear it, a club polo shirt, field day shirt, anything clean and presentable. Remember, we'll be the ambassadors of our hobby to a lot of people.

It's easier than field day (no lugging gear), and the entertainment is great, both IN the air and ON the air. For food you're on your own, but as exhibitors at the air show we should be supplied with bottled water & ice by the air show staff.

If you're interested in participating you don't need to bring anything, we'll have the station setup both days. I would appreciate it if you'd send me an e-mail to let me know that you are interested and what days/times you'd like to operate or spend time at the station. As yet we don't know exactly where we'll be located, but I will be able to provide that information Friday evening.

Incidentally, even if you don't want to operate, if you're at the air show this weekend, stop by and say hello. Look for us in the blue picnic shelter under the dipole antenna.

Finally, if the thought of being shoulder-to-shoulder with 100,000+ of your closest friends doesn't interest you, there is a very low key opportunity to volunteer. If there were to be a incident at the Air Show it might be necessary to activate the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System (OMMRS) radio network. If you would be willing to help in that circumstance, please plan to monitor local repeater frequencies during the air show so you will be aware of events. In the event of an OMMRS activation a message would be broadcast on all area repeaters to notify available hams. I would be grateful if anyone planning to serve in that capacity would let me know so I can have a list of people likely to be available in the unlikely event of an emergency needing our assistance.

Dennis Mitchell - KC0YKN
ARES Emergency Coordinator
Sarpy County, Nebraska

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org

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399. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1672 - August 28 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-28 10:44:44 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090828015316.0169f1f0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1809
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1672 - August 28 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1672 with a release date of
Friday, August 28, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A study says that sunspots seem to be
disappearing. Will they stay away for good? Also, a new a microwave
contact distance record is set in New Zealand, uncoordinated digital
audio repeaters are found to be interfering with ham radio satellites
and an editorial in QST warns against amateur radio's emergency
communications capability being used improperly. All this and more on
Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1672 coming your way right
now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO WAVES: TWO ASTRONOMERS PREDICT SUNSPOTS WILL SOON COMPLETELY
DISAPPEAR

Are sunspots disappearing for good? Two solar researchers say this is
the case. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more:

--

Most hams users know that there is a direct correlation between
sunspots and high frequency propagation conditions. In general, the
more sunspots there are, the more DX you will be able to work. This
usually happens in 11 year cycles with the last solar maximum having
taken place in 2000.

The current Solar Cycle which is Cycle 24 should peak in roughly next
year in 2010. Only one problem. There have been few sunspots this
year and very little easy to work DX. And now there may be an answer
as to why.

Spaceweather.com reports that astronomers Bill Livingston and Matt Penn
of the National Solar Observatory in Tucson, Arizona, have found that
sunspot magnetic fields are definitely waning. Not only that. They
say that sunspots could completely disappear within decades.

Livingston and Penn have been measuring solar magnetism since 1992.
Their technique is based on a complex system called the Zeeman
splitting of infrared spectral lines emitted by iron atoms in the
vicinity of sunspots. They reached their conclusion by extrapolating
their already collected data into the future.

But Spaceweather also says not to count out sunspots just yet. It notes that while the data of Livingston and Penn is widely thought to be correct, that any far reaching extrapolations may be premature. It says that this type of measurement is relatively new, and the data reaches back less than 17 years. In the end it appears as if the giant solar disk we call the sun is the only one who holds the answers to the future of its spots and how good DX will be in the coming years.

In Scottsdale, Arizona, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

And a bit of an astro physics lesson before we leave this story. For those not aware, sunspots are made of magnetism. In other words a sunspot is not matter but rather a strong magnetic field that appears dark because it blocks the upward flow of heat from the sun's fiery depths. Spaceweather says that without magnetism, there would be no sunspots. (Spaceweather, others)

**

RADIO RECORDS: NEW ZL 3 CM RECORD SET

A new record for a microwave contact has been established down-under. This with word that an April 1st SSB voice contact on 10.368 GHz between ZL1TPH in Cape Reinga and ZL2IP operating from North Egmont has been confirmed under New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Society rules.

The distance between the two hams was 551 Kilometers and its considered as being a new New Zealand milestone record. It is also believed to be the longest terrestrial distance contact ever recorded on the 3 centimeter band made to date. (NZART, Southgate)

**

RADIO LAW: NO MORE Q SUFFIX CALLS IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's telecommunications regulator ICASA has confirmed that it has blocked the further issuance of any ham radio call with suffixes that are part of the Q codes and will also not issue a call with the suffix SOS.

Its reported that only a few South African hams and one club call sign are in the now unused Q-code group. When these call signs are no longer in use they will also be added to the blocked list. South African hams who have call signs with Q-code suffixes are being urged to apply for a call sign change. (SARL)

**

RADIO LAW: UNCOORDINATED D-STAR REPEATERS IN ITU REGION 1 INTERFERING WITH HAMSATS

D-Star repeaters in I-T-U Region 1 operating uncoordinated in the Amateur Satellite band are reportedly playing havoc with ham radio satellite communications worldwide. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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ITU Region one is made up of Europe, Africa, the Middle East west of the Persian Gulf including Iraq, the former Soviet Union and Mongolia. The problem came to light with the recent publication of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwave newsletter. It details the interference problems being caused by uncoordinated D-Star repeaters operating in the band segments reserved for Amateur Satellite operations.

The newsletter says a recent planning conference recognized the frequency needs for digital voice, and the bandplans were adjusted accordingly. In other words there are now specific spectral parcels in I-T-U Region One where repeaters using digital voice technology are to operate and no place else.

But the story goes on to note that the rising number of D-Star users in some countries has lead to what it terms as uncoordinated growth. It also notes reports that D-Star repeaters are operating in the 2 meter protected satellite segment.

The newsletter condemns these operations calling them deplorable. It goes on to note that hams complain about interference in the satellite segment caused by pirate operators and illegal telephone systems, while jamming the satellite segment themselves with uncoordinated digital voice repeater operations. It also notes that what it terms as irregular repeater shifts or input to output separation is yet also another source of interference to other ham radio operations.

IARU Region 1 is now laying down the proverbial gauntlet. It says that whenever a new D-Star repeater is to be set up, it must operate on a coordinated frequency pair. This, even if this means that an existing analogue repeater has to be switched off for this purpose.

Michael Kastelic, OE1MCU, who edits the IARU Region 1 VHF/UHF/Microwave newsletter takes it even a step further. He is urgently requesting that all Region 1 VHF managers monitor the developments in their countries and to use their influence to remedy the situation as required. And while he does not say it in these specific terms Kastelic seems to be suggesting that if an uncoordinated D-Star repeater shows up in the amateur satellite subband it may be time to have government telecommunications regulators for the nation its in, order it off the air.

No word from if any of the uncoordinated repeaters targeted by this editorial have or will voluntarily comply and move out of the amateur satellite band.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

In many ways it appears as if the popularity of D-Star in some parts of the world is such that its literally going through the same growing pains that analog FM repeaters saw in the late 1960's through the early 1970's. You can read more on-line at www.iaru-r1.org/index.php?option=com_remository&Itemid3&func=select &id=6 (IARU, Southgate)

**

D-STAR NEWS: FIRST EVER NON-ICOM D-STAR REPEATER JOINS G2 NETWORK

Meantime, David Lake, G4ULF, and members of the Ashdown Forest Repeater Group have the first non-Icom D-Star repeater in coordinated prototype operation in the United Kingdom. The GB7MH repeater hardware is a modified Tait T800 repeater operating in full GMSK mode with the D-Star standard 6.25 KHz bandwidth. The repeater uses the GMSK Node Adapter developed by Satoshi Yasuda, 7M3TJZ, in Japan.

With the cooperation and support of the Trust Server Team in Texas, the repeater GB7MH is connected to the G2 network. It is running popular software including the DPLUS module developed by Robin Cutshaw, AA4RC. It also can run Pete Loveall, AE5PL's DSTARMONITOR code unmodified.

The repeater is usually connected to REF005A and is capable of full callsign routing to and from the live G2 network. It provides station updates and includes a self-service registration page similar to the Icom registration.

The GB7MH D-Star system is currently undergoing rigorous testing to ensure the integrity of the worldwide G2 network. The software will not be made available until testing has been completed. You can follow the developments of this first ever non-Icom D-Star repeater at t http://g4ulf.blogspot.com. (Georgia D-Star, QRZ.com)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the NS9RC repeater of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club and their net serving Highland Park Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO RULES: PECUNIARY INTEREST - A QST EDITORIAL BY K1ZZ

Whether or not you are a member of the ARRL, the editorial in the September issue of QST Magazine is must reading for any radio amateur

who is even remotely concerned over the rising problem of ham radio being used for things its was never intended. We are talking about the attempt to commercialize the hobby by some cities, towns and employers under the guise of it being emergency preparedness. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in our newsroom with more:

--

Titled "It Seems To Us: Pecuniary Interest" the editorial was penned by ARRL Executive Officer Dave Sumner, K1ZZ. In it he takes a close look at the level to which ham radio emergency communications has matured to where its looked upon as being among the most reliable in the world. And because of this, there are some who would exploit it as a way to have an emergency communications or public service network available and on call at little or no cost to a given business or municipality.

Indeed, Sumner cites one case of a medical worker who objected to the FCC interpretation of rule 97.113(a)(3). This when that unnamed worker was told that employees cannot transmit communications on behalf of the hospital while on duty.

Sumner's editorial says that the ARRL Board of Directors is already looking at the problem, but he really implies that it is the nations ham community that must think carefully about what its being asked to do by municipalities, service providers and employers before signing on. K1ZZ notes that there are other radio services designated for the purpose of routine business communications and warns that ham radio must not permit itself to be exploited by those who are to frugal to use them.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the City of Angels.

--

"It Seems To Us: Pecuniary Interest" can be found on page 9 of the September issue of QST. Reading it aloud and discussing it might make for an excellent program for your next radio club meeting. (ARNewsline(tm) based on K1ZZ editorial)

**

HAM RADIO FUTURE: HAS CONTESTING REACHED ITS PEAK

Another article worth reading and discussing is titled Has Contesting Reached Its Peak appearing in the still available August issue of CQ Magazine. In it author John Dorr, K1AR, notes that even with a decline in the overall number of licensed radio amateurs world-wide that interest in radio sporting or contesting is at an all time high. Dorr's article looks into the likely reason for this interesting trend and postulates on what the future may be. It's a good read for anyone with an interest in radio sports or the overall future of our hobby. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: MALL RADIO JAMMER BONDY FINED $24,000 AND PUT ON 2 YEARS PROBATION

And yet another follow-up on the strange case of a man who tried to jam a mall security operation off of its assigned frequencies. A California State Court has put 25 year old radio jammer Kevin William Bondy on two years of probation, fined him $24,000, and ordered him to forfeit his radio gear.

According to the Ventura County Star newspaper, the sentence was imposed by Superior Court Judge Edward Brodie as part of a plea agreement. This after Bondy pleaded no contest on Thursday, August 20th to a misdemeanor charge making annoying phone calls in connection with an incident that happened last spring.

As you my recall, Bondy was caught by an FCC agent and local police officers while interfering with the radio operations at The Oaks Shopping Center in Thousand Oaks, California. Reports say that Bondy had demanded that the mall's security officers turn their radio frequencies to him and threatened to jam all of the malls radio communications unless his demand was met.

After he was caught the FCC issued its own $24,000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Monetary Forfeiture to Bondy. This for what it termed as his apparent, willful and repeated violation of the Commission's Rules by engaging in unlicensed radio operation, intentional interference to licensed radio operations and failing to allow an inspection of his radio equipment by Commission personnel. That order has since been affirmed.

Bottom line: Bondy has to pay $24,000 to the Federal government and another $24,000 to the state of California. This, with the latter keeping track of him over the next 24 months. (CGC)

**

RADIO LAW: CONGRESS MAY ALLOW CELLPHONE JAMMING IN PRISONS

States may soon seek permission to legally jam wireless cell phones in prisons to stop inmates from organizing crimes from behind bars. This, under a under a measure recently approved by a Senate committee.

The bipartisan measure is being sponsored by Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas and Maryland's Senator Barbara Mikulski as its Democratic co-sponsor. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee has endorsed the measure and has now sent it to the full Senate for consideration.

Law enforcement officials nationwide have long called for a change in the current law, which doesn't allow states to interfere with cell phone transmissions. The new legislation would require the FCC to consider all available technologies that could be used to block unauthorized wireless communications in correctional facilities.

If signed into law, the legislation would allow states to petition the FCC for permission to use wireless cell phone jamming technology. However critics contend that cell phone jamming could interfere with emergency response and legitimate cell phone use near prisons. (Published news reports)

**

RADIO LAW: LACK OF GLOBAL DEMAND ENDS MOST COPPER THEFTS

It wasn't long ago when we were reporting that the theft of copper and other conductive metals was rampant. Power lines were cut down for their copper content, pipes in buildings under construction were ripped away, and wiring was disappearing.

But that's no longer the case as the global recession has resulted in a drop in demand for most metals with copper among the hardest hit.

The price of copper reached an all-time high in mid-2008 of more than $4 per pound on the world market, with the greatest demand from China. That price then plummeted to $1.50 per pound shortly after the global economic recession began last fall. This makes it not very profitable for a thief to risk his or her life for less than the price of a hot dog from a street vendor.

Add to this newly enacted laws like one in California that requires scrap metal dealers buying bulk metal to get a photo ID from anyone bringing in the items and to delay payment for three days. It also requires recyclers to photograph the items, pay only by check and take the seller's thumbprint. (Union-Tribune)

**

RESCUE RADIO: PAINT ON PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR CELLS HOLD PROMISE FOR ENCOMM

Science Daily reports that solar cells could soon be produced more cheaply using nanoparticle inks that allow them to be printed like newspaper or painted onto the sides of buildings or rooftops. This to absorb sunlight and produce electric power.

The article cites the work of University of Texas chemical engineer Brian Korgel. Korgel is hoping to cut the cost of producing high output solar cells to one tenth of their current price by replacing the standard manufacturing process for solar cells.

Right now photovoltaic cells are made using a gas phase depositing system that must be carried out in a vacuum chamber and requiring high temperatures. For the past two years, Korgel and his team have been working on this low-cost, nanomaterials solution to photovoltaics manufacturing. He believes that nanomaterial inks could be printed onto a surface using a roll-to-roll process on a plastic substrate or stainless steel. Because of this the prospect of being able to paint the inks onto a rooftop or building is not far fetched as one might at first believe.

His team has so far developed solar-cell prototypes with efficiencies at one percent but notes they need to be about 10 percent. He says that if he can get the level to the 10 percent mark, then there's real potential for commercialization. He says that then you could see this new production technique being used in three to five years. For hams involved in public service and emergency communications work, such a source of sunlight power used to charge battery banks would mean communications could continue even if the power mains we out of service for an extended period of time.

Funding for the research comes from the National Science Foundation, the Welch Foundation and the Air Force Research Laboratory. The complete story is at www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/08/090824115907.htm (Science Daily)

**

A SIGN OF THE TIMES: ONCE BUSY UK PACKET NODE TO CLOSE

Call it a sign of the times. The GB7NT packet radio node is to close due to an ever dwindling numbers and the often thankless task of maintaining the equipment.

The GB7NT packet radio node first came on the air in October 1993 and has been providing a service to radio amateurs in the South-East Wales area for almost seventeen years. But the use of Packet as a direct or forwarding messaging system has been on the downslide for years, supplanted by e-mail over the Internet.

Now, Steve Cole, GW4BLE, the SysOp GB7NT says that he will close the node unless there is shown to be sufficient enthusiasm for it to remain on-air. He says that currently most former the daily users of the service are now using other non-radio means to access DX Cluster information. (GW4BLE, Southgate)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: ILLW 2009 DEEMED AN OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend held on August 15th and 16th had an all time record 442 registrations from 50 countries. The event began in 1995 in Scotland as the Northern Lighthouses Award for ham radio operators, and went international event two years later.

Alaska was a first this year with an entry for Sentinel Island. Germany listed 55 lighthouses, Australia 49, USA 47, and England 43. Malaysia celebrated its lighthouse weekend with nine lighthouses. The Azores, Balearic Islands, Egypt, Slovenia, Panama were some of the smaller countries represented with one entry from each. The initial tally shows participation by lighthouses and Lightships worldwide up some 10% over 2008. (Amateur Radio Victoria)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: CELEBRATING HPM AT AGE 140

And back in the United States the ARRL has announced that the Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday celebration is back this year honoring the 140th anniversary of the birth of the League's first president and co-founder who held the call letters W1AW. The special event is open to all amateurs, and the goal is to work the stations adding /140 to their callsigns, and contact as many as possible during the event period, September 2nd to the 9th. A special certificate is available for making at least 25 contacts with endorsement increments of 25, and a maximum endorsement of 100. More information can be found in the September issue of QST magazine. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THE LATEST DTV CONVERSION STATS

Almost everyone in the United States who watches television can now see it digitally. Again, Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, has the latest numbers:

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The A.C. Nielsen data survey company now reports that as of Wednesday, July 29th that 98.9% of United States homes are able to receive digital television signals. This is a gain of 229,000 homes in the last two weeks of July and 1.3 million homes since the week of the June 12 digital television transition.

Among the 56 local markets that Nielsen measures there are 32 markets not far behind with less than 1% of TV households completely unready. Albuquerque and Santa Fe New Mexico at 3.5% each continue to have the highest percentage of homes that cannot receive digital signals from full powered U.S. television stations. In fact, the markets with the most households unable to receive digital television tend to be in the Western United States. That's where cable availability is lower than to the East.

--

The report did not say how long it might be before the remaining 1.2% without digital converters or a pay service will take to get on board with DTV. (TV Tech)

**

WORLDBEAT: VK RADIO ANALOG STATIONS WANT GOVERNMENT JAMMING OF DIGITAL

Legal jamming on the broadcast band. That's what some analogue FM radio stations in the Australian city of Geelong are asking their telecommunications regulator to do. This, because they fear their listeners will be lured to tune into the new digital transmission stations in near-by Melbourne.

Grant Broadcasters Pty Ltd which operate two FM stations in Geelong has called on the Australian Communications and Media Authority to jam the Melbourne signals. They say this is needed is because there will be a considerable time delay in extending digital radio to Geelong and other regional areas and they do not want to loose listenership in the meantime.

The government owned broadcasters ABC and SBS are obviously opposed to their digital signals being denied to Geelong or anyplace else. The Australian Communications and Media Authority says that it is considering options for the introduction of what it terms as coverage management systems to stop the fortuitous digital radio coverage.

According to news reports, if the proposed jamming of the digital broadcasts does go ahead it would need to be funded by broadcasters claiming the need for market protection. (VK3PC)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUITSAT 2 NOW ARISSAT-1

The SuitSat-2 project now has a new name to go with its new shape. Its now known as ARISSat-1.

ARISS Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, the announced the new name for the satellite project last week. The team is now moving ahead using the same hardware that was to fly in the Russian spacesuit that got tossed away into space.

The ARISSat-1 team is re-configuring some of the modules to fit into the new space structure being designed by Bob Davis, KF4KSS and his crew. No date as to when ARISSat-1 will be tossed into orbit from the ISS. (AMSAT)

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ON THE AIR: TEXAS CLUB TO ACTIVATE WILLOW ISLAND ON SEPT 5

On the air, the Tri-County Amateur Radio Club of North Texas, will activate for the first time as WC5C from Willow Island located in Lake Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. The operation will take place on September 5th mainly be on 40 and 20 meter SSB but they will QSY to accommodate stations on other High Frequency bands or modes. In addition to SSB, PSK31 and CW will both be available.

Willow Island is primarily Tanglewood and poison ivy with some wildlife. The club will access the island by boat, canoe and kayak. Primary hours of operation will be 1400 UTC to 2200 UTC, but possibly continuing into the night depending on conditions.

A commemorative QSL card will be sent to all contacts acknowledging them as remote participants in the first activation of Willow Island. Return cards from all who make contact will be appreciated by the club so as qualify the island for future status. (Southgate)

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ON THE AIR: THE 2009 EUROPEAN PSK CONTEST

And the European PSK Club is inviting hams world wide to take part in the 2009 CIS DX QPSK63 Contest. The event is slated for September 19th and 20th. Contest, rules and other information can be found on the Web at www.cisdx.srars.org (Southgate)

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DX

In DX, word that SP5EAQ and -SP5DRH will be active as 3D2MJ and 3D2KJ, respectively, from Viti Levu, Fiji for four starting October 1st. Their operation will be on all bands, but with an emphasis on the lower high frequency bands. They plan to use two stations with small amps and vertical antennas. QSL via their home callsigns.

Currently, two operators are active from here. CT1GPQ, now active from Timor Leste as 4W6AL, will be there until October 3rd. He is there with a medical team and radio operations will take place only during his spare time. QSL via CT1GFK.

Also on from Timor Leste is VK4FR active as 4W6FR. He will be there until mid-October on a work assignment. He is believed to be operating on 30 and 20 meters using PSK31. QSL 4W6FR via VK4FW.

HA3JB, will be active portable 5B from Cyprus through October 2nd. This is a new Hungarian International Police Association activation and is valid for HA-IPARC Award. QSL as directed on the air.

AC2AI will be active as 9M6 stroke JJ2CJB from the Langkah Syabas Beach Resort on the Island of Borneo for the CQWW DX SSB Contest on October 24th and 25th. He plans to run 400 watts into a Force12 C4 beam. QSL via LoTW, e-QSL or the JA Bureau.

PA1TK, PA5WT and PA3GVI will be on the air from Luxembourg stroke LX between September 4th to the 7th. Look for Kees and Rob to focus on 80-10 meters using CW and SSB while Theo operates in the IARU VHF Contest on 2 meters. QSL via their home callsigns.

Lastly, AA5UK, will be active portable EA6 from Ibiza in the Baleric Islands from October 14th to the 29th. His operation will be holiday style on 160 through 10 meters using mostly SSB and various Digital modes. Also, look for satellite activity on various birds. QSL via his home callsign, via the bureau, LoTW or eQSL.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE STORY OF THE MAN WHO TRAINS ASTRONAUTS TO BE HAMS

And finally this week, since 1983 many orbital space missions have taken along amateur radio gear. The first ham in space was Owen Garriott, W5LFL. He was followed by Tony England, W0ORE, after which ham radio in space was formalized. First, under the title of the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment or SAREX and today as ARISS or Amateur Radio on the International Space Station. And with amateur radio a part of the astronauts training, someone on the ground has to teach them. Recently, Amateur Radio Newsline's Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, had a chance to meet and talk with the man who really is the ham behind the ham radio operators in space: Nick Lance, KC5KBO:

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Do you remember where you were when NASA embarked on the Apollo space program that culminated with U.S. astronauts landing on and exploring the moon? Nick Lance, KC5KBO, does.

He joined NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston at the time of Apollo 7 in the late 1960s. He was there through that historic Apollo 11 mission and worked for some 40 years for the space agency until his retirement Aug. 1.

"The first 17 years I worked in advanced life support - that's where we developed the hardware and technology to keep the astronaut alive and comfortable," Lance recalls. "And, since that time I've been in many different roles in the program and project management, including program management for the international space station way back in the mid-80s to 90s, and other roles in the engineering directorate."

But in the mid-1990s, Lance says his friend, astronaut Marsha Ivins, came to him with a proposal. She has flown on five space shuttle missions and is currently assigned to the Constellation branch of the astronaut office.

"She said if you could teach ham radio to your young kids - my son got his license when he was 7 - that I could teach it to astronauts, too, probably," Lance says. "So we developed a course, an accelerated course because their time is valuable. And, were able to teach them, in probably at the time, maybe six hours when there were about 900 questions in the Technician question pool.

"And now that there are less questions, we can do that in about three hours for the current crew.

That was at least 10 years ago, Lance says, and a lot of astronauts have gotten their ham ticket thanks to his efforts as their Elmer.

"Well, we've probably licensed - I'm going to guess - in the 50 range or so, probably anybody with a Kilo Charlie or Kilo Delta or Kilo Echo 5 call sign has gone through the radio class that we provide there," Lance says. "There are some crewmen who have not gone up yet and hopefully they'll get a chance to before the space station program is

over."

And, Lance says his classes have attracted more than just the astronauts.

"We had several classes of astronauts who brought their wives and their children in to so they could all learn together," Lance says. "It was a good opportunity because some of the crew wanted to talk to their family from space, too. "And that afforded them the opportunity to do those direct contacts."

Lance says once licensed and aboard the space station on missions, the astronauts enjoy getting on the amateur radio spectrum talking to school students as well as regular hams around the globe.

"Well, a lot of them do like to participate in the ARISS program, get to talk to people on the ground. It's a neat way to be in contact, in direct contact with the supporting public."

Lance says he's pleased with the feedback he's gotten over the years from inside as well as outside NASA.

"It's great to hear that other people have the opportunity now to talk to an astronaut, something that, you know, was heretofore reserved for capsule communicators," Lance says. "But now it opens it up to anybody with a two-watt hand-held. So that's really heartening to know that I had a small part in doing that."

And, despite his recent retirement, Lance says he will voluntarily continue his work training the next generation of astronauts to get their ham tickets.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mark Abramowicz, NT3V, in Ocean City, MD.

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That's only a small part of what KC5KBO has to tell. You can hear Mark's complete 8 minute interview with him on our website under Special Reports. We think that you will enjoy the story that Nick has to tell. (NT3V, ARNewsline)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno, Nevada, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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400. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 34 (Friday, August 28, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-28 20:42:29 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090828204158.6DC7C32D10@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1810
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 34
August 28, 2009
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Cup
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ 2009 Field Day Logs Received, Posted Online
+ Kansas QSO Party Back on the Air for 2009

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> FCC TO UTILITIES: DON'T LOOK TO HAMS TO PAY FOR YOUR TESTING

In a case that goes back more than 10 years, the FCC has told a
Pennsylvania utility that the utility is responsible for paying for
"efforts to locate and correct instances of [power line] noise"
<http://www.fcc.gov/eb/AmateurActions/files/Duque09_08_07_5108.pdf>. At
least one amateur has been complaining to the FCC since 2000 regarding
harmful radio interference possibly caused by power line equipment
maintained by Pittsburgh's Duquesne Light Company (DLC)
<http://www.duquesnelight.com/>.

Bob Thacker, K3GT, of Allison Park, Pennsylvania -- a suburb just
northeast of Pittsburgh -- first noticed harmful interference back in
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1996. He told the ARRL that DLC would come out and fix things, but that he would soon hear noise again. After a few years of this, he complained to the FCC, and in 2005, the FCC notified DLC of the complaint. A month later, DLC responded to the FCC, detailing their efforts to resolve the matter and indicated that the most recent complaint was the result of changed conditions, not the continuation of an old problem.

According to the FCC, DLC again communicated with the FCC in a letter dated June 2, 2005, explaining the efforts they had taken to repair three lightning arrestors. During the latter half of 2005 and into 2006, Thacker continued to experience interference and continued to report these instances to DLC, requesting that DLC correct the problems. In 2007, he located a specific pole as one source of noise and advised a Mr Luther of DLC of this fact; Mr Luther advised Thacker that he would submit a work order.

In March 2008, DLC contacted Thacker, indicating that it had swept the area where the suspected pole was located and discovered no noise. DLC indicated that the noise source was a neon light. Finally, DLC stated that it had spent "significant amounts of time and money" attempting to address his concerns and that DLC would require him to pay for any additional efforts to locate and correct instances of noise.

Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement Laura Smith responded to DLC in July of this year, saying "Such a response is not acceptable." She spelled out what she called "the most important rules relating to radio and television interference from incidental radiators," specifically:

47 CFR, Section 15.5: General Conditions of Operation <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.5.pdf>; 47 CFR, Section 15.13: Incidental Radiators <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.13.pdf>, and 47 CFR Section 15.15: General Technical Requirements <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/cfr_2002/octqtr/pdf/47cfr15.15.pdf>.

"Given the fact this case has been ongoing for quite some time without resolution and DLC has had ample time to locate the instances of interference and make the necessary repairs," Smith told the utility, "you are directed to respond to [me] within 60 days of receipt of this letter, detailing what steps you have taken to resolve the remaining instances of interference that are reported as being caused by your equipment. Should the remaining interference problems not be resolved within those 60 days, DLC will be required to provide [me] with a status update every two weeks going forward as to what progress, if any, has been made to resolve the matter."

ARRL Lab Engineer and power line noise expert Mike Gruber, W1MG, was pleased with Smith's decision, and said that amateurs should not be made to pay fees to the utilities to test for harmful interference by the same utilities. "It is not the responsibility of an Amateur Radio operator to track down and get rid of power line noise -- that's the utilities' job. I am pleased with the precedent that Laura Smith and the

FCC have set here. Now maybe more utilities will take power line noise interference more seriously in the future."

==> HURRICANE BILL PASSES NEW ENGLAND, FINDS NEWFOUNDLAND

Along Coastal New England and the Canadian Maritimes, residents boarded up windows in preparation for Hurricane Bill. Even though the storm -- eventually downgraded from Category 4 to Category 1 -- was considerably weaker than it had been when it was in the Caribbean earlier last week, those who live and work in the region were not taking any chances. To assist the National Hurricane Center (NHC) <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> in tracking the storm, hams with the Hurricane Watch Net and the VoIP Hurricane Net relayed traffic and spotting reports to WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the NHC <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>.

"For the second year in a row -- last year with Hurricane Kyle, and now Hurricane Bill -- the Amateur Radio operators in the Canadian Maritimes proved their skills at supporting the needs of the hurricane centers and in passing information vital to the public's safety," said ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD. "We know that should even more severe tropical events impact that area, the hams will be ready with this increasing experience of late, and we will be ready to support them."

Bill's top-sustained winds fell from 105 MPH on Friday night to just 85 MPH by Sunday morning. But as the storm's wind speed dissipated, its size didn't: The diameter of tropical storm-force winds stretched 550 miles, the distance from Atlanta to Washington, DC. During the early hours of Sunday morning, Bill's center of circulation passed about 160 miles to the east-southeast of Nantucket, Massachusetts, its closest approach to the United States. There were wind gusts ranging from 25-35 MPH along the eastern coast of Massachusetts and a few bands of rain swept northward across Cape Cod, but not enough to cause any flooding.

The VoIP Hurricane Net (VoIP Net) <http://www.voipwx.net/> activated at 4 AM EDT on Sunday, August 23, wrapping up at 6 PM that evening. "Nova Scotia amateurs relayed a significant number of reports to WX4NHC via the Net," said Director of Operations for the VoIP Hurricane Net Rob Macedo, KD1CY. "They described tropical storm force conditions and pockets of wind damage, including a few coastal road washouts from storm surge but the region was spared hurricane force winds. This is likely because of Bill's track parallel to the coast, just south of the province. The highest wind gusts were in the 45-55 MPH range over land."

Macedo said that during the weekly VoIP Net on Saturday evening, Net Control conducted a special roll call, lining up Canadian stations from the affected area: "Martin Thomas, VE1AUZ, was the key liaison station monitoring the local VHF/UHF repeaters, feeding the information to the VoIP Hurricane Net. Several other Canadian stations also relayed reports, including Geoff Wilson, VE1GW, and Frank Leslie, VE1FWL. VE1EMX, an official station for the Municipality of the County of Cumberland's Emergency Measures Organization, was also on the air. More

than a dozen Canadian stations were connected into the VoIP Hurricane Net during the height of Bill's impact on the Maritimes. This is our second time in two years working with Canadian amateurs and amateurs affiliated with Radio Amateurs Canada and they did a terrific job once again."

RAC Vice President of Field Services Doug Mercer, VO1DTM, told the ARRL that he, Newfoundland Section Emergency Coordinator Rendyl Godwin, VO1RYL, and four District Emergency Coordinators were "actively passing traffic hourly to the Hurricane Watch Net since 1200 UTC [Sunday]."

Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) <http://www.hwn.org/> Manager Dave Lefavour, W7GOX, told the ARRL that they received an activation request from WX4NHC, their first activation of the 2009 hurricane season: "We opened the Net at 8 AM EDT on Sunday, August 23 on 14.325 MHz, and operated continuously until 7 PM. We had a successful spring recruiting campaign that brought several new members to the Net, and Hurricane Bill allowed us to introduce them to our Net protocols. It's one thing to read about how we do things, but there is no substitute for experience. Conditions on 20 meters were difficult, but with the additional members added to our roster, we were able to maintain communications with our Canadian reporting stations. Kudos to three hams -- Derek King, VE1AWT, David Myrick, VO1VCE, and Fredrick Snow, VO1FJS -- are in order, as they were stalwarts during this HWN session, providing timely information that we relayed to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. By the end of the day, 22 HWN members had participated in the Net."

Lefavour thanked all amateurs who kept the 20 meter frequency clear so they could support WX4NHC. "With the unpredictable shifts in propagation on the 20 meter band, and considering the conditions under which these folks are operating, the signals of our reporting stations are often weak," he said. "This was certainly the case for Sunday's Net session."

WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, thanked the hams who supported the operation: "I would like to echo my thanks to everyone for making the effort to support our friends in Canada during Hurricane Bill. It was truly an international effort with Net Controls from many parts of the US and as far away as Germany. The highest wind reports that I saw come in came from Sable Island with a population of five people and 300 wild horses."

Ripoll singled out five Canadian hams "who truly deserve special mention for their extra efforts and long hours relaying reports: Martin Thomas, VE1AUZ; Joseph Wilson, VE1GW; Frank Leslie, VE1FWL; James Hannon, VE1EMX, and Fredrick Snow, VO1FJS."

"Bill opened the 2009 hurricane season for us," HWN's Lefavour said. "We hope that we are not needed for the rest of the year, but the peak of the hurricane season is yet to come. We're ready."

==> ARRL VICE DIRECTOR ELECTIONS SET FOR NOVEMBER

Responding to solicitations in the July and August issues of QST, ARRL members in the Central, Hudson, New England, Northwestern and Roanoke Divisions have nominated 11 candidates for the 10 positions of Director and Vice Director of each of the five divisions. Seven incumbents have been declared elected without opposition, while there will be balloting for Vice Director in the Central and Roanoke Divisions; ballots will be counted on Friday, November 20, 2009, and those elected will serve three-year terms beginning at noon on January 1, 2010.

The ARRL Ethics and Elections Committee has reviewed and confirmed the eligibility of all 11 candidates and has declared the following re-elected: Central Division Director George R. Isely, W9GIG; Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, and Vice Director Joyce Birmingham, KA2ANF; New England Division Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI, and Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF; Northwestern Division Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JF, and Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF. The rules state that if a candidate is running unopposed, he or she shall be declared the winner without balloting. No one from the Northwestern Division requested a petition form for the Vice Director position, so that position will become vacant at noon on January 1, 2010; William J. Sawders, K7ZM, is the current Northwestern Division Vice Director. The ARRL President is empowered by the ARRL Articles of Association and Bylaws to appoint someone to fill the vacant position.

Roanoke Division Vice Director Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, decided not to seek another term. Nominated to succeed her are South Carolina Section Manager James F. Boehner, N2ZZ, of Aiken, and former West Virginia Section Manager Hal Turley, W8HC, of Huntington.

In the Central Division, incumbent Vice Director Howard S. Huntington, K9KM, of Hawthorn Woods, Illinois, is being challenged by VHF/UHF Advisory Committee (VUAC) Chairman Kermit Carlson, W9XA, of Batavia, Illinois.

The policies of the League are established by 15 Directors who are elected to the Board on a geographical basis to represent their divisions and constituents. These 15 Directors serve three year terms, with five standing for election each year. Vice Directors, who succeed the Director in the event of a mid-term vacancy and serve as Director at any Board meeting the Director is unable to attend, are elected at the same time.

Full members of the ARRL in the Central and Roanoke Divisions will be mailed ballots in late September. To receive a ballot you must be a member as of September 10. To be counted, ballots must be returned so as to be received at ARRL HQ no later than noon Eastern Standard Time on Friday, November 20. The count will be conducted on that date under the supervision of three tellers and a certified public accountant.

Absentee ballots are available to those ARRL full members licensed by the FCC but temporarily residing outside of the US. Members overseas who arrange to be listed as full members in an appropriate Division prior to September 10, 2009, will be able to vote this year where elections are

being held. Even within the US, full members temporarily living outside the ARRL Division they consider home may have voting privileges by notifying the ARRL Secretary prior to September 10, 2009, giving their current QST address and the reason another Division is considered home.

==> SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY: THREE HAMS ON BOARD

Tuesday's launch of the Space Shuttle Discovery (STS-128) <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts128/index.html> was scuttled when thunderstorms -- including a lightning strike just five miles from the launch pad -- popped up unexpectedly Monday evening, continuing into Tuesday morning. With plans to reschedule the launch the next day, NASA technicians found problems with the shuttle's fill and drain valves. Discovery is now scheduled to launch into space at 11:59 PM (EDT) on Friday, August 28, carrying a crew of seven astronauts, including three radio amateurs.

Commanded by Frederick W. "Rick" Sturckow and piloted by Kevin A. Ford, Discovery is poised to blast off on a 13 day mission to deliver more than 7 tons of supplies, science racks and equipment, as well as additional environmental hardware to sustain six crew members on the International Space Station (ISS). The shuttle also has a crew of five Mission Specialists: Jose Hernandez, KE5DAV; Nicole Stott, KE5GJN; Christer Fuglesang, SA0AFS/KE5CGR; Patrick G. Forrester, and John D. "Danny" Olivas.

When Discovery undocks from the ISS, Stott will be left behind in the orbital outpost. Timothy Kopra, KE5UDN -- who has been on the ISS since July -- will return to Earth on the shuttle. Kopra's departure and Stott's arrival makes for six astronauts on board the ISS, and all but one are licensed radio amateurs: Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT; Flight Engineer Michael Barratt, KD5MIJ; Flight Engineer Frank DeWinne, ON1DWN; Flight Engineer Robert Thirsk, VA3CSA, and Flight Engineer Roman Romanenko.

Stott -- who holds a BS in aeronautical engineering from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Central Florida -- joined NASA in 1988 as an Operations Engineer in the Orbiter Processing Facility (OPF) at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida. Soon after, she was detailed to the Director of Shuttle Processing as part of a two-person team tasked with assessing the overall efficiency of shuttle processing flows and implementing tools for measuring the effectiveness of improvements. During her time at KSC, Stott also held a variety of positions within NASA Shuttle Processing, including Vehicle Operations Engineer, NASA Convoy Commander, Shuttle Flow Director for Endeavour and Orbiter Project Engineer for Columbia. In 1998, she joined the Johnson Space Center team in Houston as a member of the NASA Aircraft Operations Division, where she served as a Flight Simulation Engineer on the Shuttle Training Aircraft.

Selected as a mission specialist by NASA in July 2000, Stott reported for astronaut candidate training the next month. Following the completion of two years of training and evaluation, she was assigned technical duties in the Astronaut Office Station Operations Branch, where she performed crew evaluations of station payloads. She also worked as a support astronaut for the Expedition 10 crew. In April 2006, she was a crew member on the NEEMO 9 mission (NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations) where she lived and worked with a six-person crew for 18 days on the Aquarius undersea research habitat.

In a NASA pre-flight interview, Stott said that while on board the ISS, the crew will "be continuing the final assembly of the space station, and also moving more actively into the utilization phase of station, with the science and research that will be going on." Her primary responsibility on the ISS will be "to maintain the U.S. systems as well as the payloads that are on the US side, and that also includes the Japanese Experiment Module and the Columbus experiment module. And I think one of the really cool things about Expedition 20 and 21 is that we'll be a six person crew on board the station at that time."

STS-128 marks the first spaceflight for Hernandez, a native of Stockton, California. Selected as a NASA astronaut in 2004, he completed his initial training in February 2006. While on Discovery, he is slated to perform robotic operations to inspect Discovery after launch and assist with cargo transfer from the shuttle to ISS. Hernandez holds a BSEE in electrical engineering from the University of the Pacific and a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from the University of California Santa Barbara.

Fuglesang, from Sweden, is an astronaut with the European Space Agency (ESA); he flew as a mission specialist and conducted three spacewalks on STS-116 in 2006. He was selected to join the ESA astronaut corps in 1992 and began training at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston in 1996. Fuglesang has a master's degree in engineering physics from the Royal Institute of Technology and a PhD in experimental particle physics from the University of Stockholm.

NASA has said that if Discovery is not launched by Sunday, the mission would have to be delayed until mid-October to provide launch opportunities for other spacecraft, including a Russian crew capsule and an unmanned Japanese cargo ship destined to visit the ISS. If NASA decides workers have to make repairs, that could mean a weeks-long delay.

Stott is scheduled to return to Earth on the Space Shuttle Atlantis (STS-129) <http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/shuttle/shuttlemissions/sts129/index.html>, set to launch in November 2009. -- NASA provided the information for this article

==> SUITSAT-2 NOW CALLED ARISSAT-1

The SuitSat-2 project -- an Amateur Radio satellite housed in a Russian spacesuit -- now has a new name to go with a new shape: ARISSat-1. On Wednesday, August 19, Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm> Chairman Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, announced the new name for the satellite and project. According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, the project team is moving ahead, using the same hardware that was to fly in the Russian Orlan suit. Russia will continue to call the satellite Radioskaf-2, so ARISS is designating it ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2.

Plans to launch a second SuitSat-spacesuit-turned-satellite were the subject of discussions and presentations at the November 2006 AMSAT Space Symposium and ARISS International Delegates' meeting. Despite a weaker-than-anticipated 2 meter signal, SuitSat-1 sparked the imagination of students and the general public and turned into a public relations bonanza for Amateur Radio <http://www.arrl.org/ARISS/Suitsat.pdf>. ARISS hopes to capitalize on the concept by building an even better SuitSat that will include ham radio transponders. The SuitSat.org Web site <http://www.suitsat.org/> attracted nearly 10 million hits during the SuitSat-1 mission. Designated by AMSAT as AO-54, SuitSat-1 remained in operation for more than two weeks, easily outlasting initial predictions that it would transmit for about a week. SuitSat-1 re-entered and burned up in Earth's atmosphere in September 2006. ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 is expected to be live for at least six months.

Due to storage considerations, the two surplus Orlan space suits in storage on the ISS were discarded via the Progress Cargo Vessel earlier this year. One of these suits was to be used to house the electronics for the upcoming SuitSat-2 mission; the batteries were to be mounted inside the suit, solar panels attached to the extremities with the electronics, video cameras and antenna mounted on the helmet by the ISS crew prior to deployment during an extra-vehicular activity (EVA), commonly called a spacewalk. The removal of the Orlan space suits from ISS removes the "Suit" component of the deployment and the new name reflects the change in configuration.

White told the ARRL that the ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 team, through Gould Smith, WA4SXM, made the final decision for the satellite to be square, with solar panels on all 6 sides. "The team is mounting a 70 cm quarter-wave whip on the bottom and a 2 meter quarter wave whip on the top," she said. "All of the hardware and software goes inside the square, and cameras go on the outside." The experiment being developed by Russia's Kursk State University is expected to be integrated into the electronics once the US-produced equipment is delivered to Russia this fall.

AMSAT <http://www.amsat.org/> and ARISS pointed out that the importance of this project to both organizations is not diminished. "ARISS sees this mission as an important component of education outreach, as it will provide an opportunity for students around the world to listen for recorded greetings from space, as well as learn about tracking

spacecraft in orbit," White said.

The ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 transmitter and receiver will be based on a Software Defined Transponder (SDX) system. It will consist of two major components: The RF Module and the Digital Signal Processor (DSP) module. In the RF module, there will be an up converter that receives a signal from the DSP module as a 10.7 MHz intermediate frequency RF signal with a 50 kHz bandwidth, and up converts it to 145 MHz signal of 50 kHz bandwidth centered on 145.9375 MHz. The receiver is a down converter with a 50 kHz bandwidth centered on 437.6125 MHz. The output of the receiver is a 10.7 MHz RF signal with a bandwidth of 50 kHz. The DSP processor receives the 10.7 MHz signal from the receiver down converter and processes it and outputs a 10.7 MHz signal to the transmitter up converter. The DSP can also inject signals such as the CW ID, telemetry, audio and packet signals as determined by the software on the DSP.

AMSAT calls the deployment of the SDX "a critical milestone" for the organization. "This upcoming flight provides an opportunity to flight test the next generation of spacecraft hardware," Bertels said. "Lessons learned from this deployment will be applied to future flight opportunities as AMSAT moves towards a 'modularization approach' to spacecraft development with the expectation the future spacecraft missions will utilize a derivative of SDX and the associated hardware."

The ARISS International Team has been informed that there is still space available for shipment of the ARISSat-1/Radioskaf-2 electronics on the projected cargo flight to the ISS in January 2010, and the extra-vehicular activity scheduled for April 2010 still has a SuitSat-2 deployment on the schedule.

==> SOUTH AFRICAN HAMS TO PUT ZS10WCS ON THE AIR BEFORE, DURING WORLD CUP

With World Cup soccer coming to South Africa in 2010, hams in that country will commemorate the event starting in September 2009 with a special call sign: ZS10WCS. According to the South African Radio League (SARL) <http://www.sarl.org.za/>, that country's IARU Member-Society, the call sign will be used in two ways: In the months leading up to the Word Cup, to be held June 11-July 11, 2010, and for times during the event itself. SARL is requiring that clubs selected to use ZS10WCS before the event be on the air on weekends, Friday night through Sunday night. Clubs using the special call sign during the World Cup are expected to be on the air each day.

SARL will supply the special event QSL cards, and requests for direct QSLs will be handled by the SARL QSL bureau. Direct QSLs must include a self-addressed envelope and one IRC or US $1. Amateurs may also QSL via e-mail <wcs@sarl.org.za>, but those hams sending an e-mail QSL will only receive an e-mail QSL in return, and not the commemorative printed QSL.

When the World Cup was in Germany in 2006, 38 different special event stations were on the air to celebrate the event. From May 13-July 16, 26

special district stations (DQ2006A to DQ2006Z) and 12 special stadium stations (such as DR2006B and DR2006C) at the various venues were on the air. The Deutsche Amateur Radio Club (DARC) offered a gold, silver and bronze award for contacting each station; there is no word if SARL will offer an award in 2010. -- Some information provided by SARL

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun just touched the morning" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot numbers for August 20-26 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.6, 66.4, 66.6, 67.3, 67.6, 67.1 and 67.3 with a mean of 67.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 11, 8, 5, 5, 3, 3 and 4 with a mean of 5.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 8, 6, 3, 3, 1, 2 and 4 with a mean of 3.9. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions August 28, quiet August 29-30, quiet to unsettled August 31, September 1 quiet, quiet to unsettled September 2 and active conditions on September 3. NOAA and the US Air Force predict the planetary A index for August 28-September 6 at 5, 7, 10, 7, 5, 12, 7, 5, 8 and 6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Emily Dickinson's "The Sun Just Touched the Morning"
<http://www.quotesandpoem.com/poems/poeticworks/Dickinson/Complete_Poems:_Nature_-_1/5>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for an NCCC Sprint on August 28. The Kansas QSO Party is August 29-30. Next week is the All Asia Contest and Colorado QSO Party on September 5-6. The Tennessee QSO Party is September 6-7. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, April 6, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, April 18, 2009: XXXXXX. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times

convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* 2009 Field Day Logs Received, Posted Online: All 2009 Field Day logs that have been received have been posted to the Claimed Scores page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/claimed>. They reflect all applications sent from the b4h.net Web applet, as well as those received via the US Postal Service and usable electronic submissions sent via regular e-mail (non-Web applet submissions). If you find an error in your listing, or your entry is missing, please contact ARRL Field Day Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, via e-mail <dhenderson@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0236. If your entry is listed as needing more information, please contact Kathy Allison, KA1RWY, via e-mail <kallison@arrl.org> or by phone at 860-594-0295. She has all of the entries received and can determine what specifically is missing from those entries with problems.

* Kansas QSO Party Back on the Air for 2009: This weekend offers an opportunity to work rarely activated Kansas counties -- all 105 of them!The Kansas QSO Party <http://www.ksqsoparty.org/> returns to the airwaves for the first time since 2002, making it possible to put the Kansas state flag on your Year of the State QSO Party certificate <http://www.arrl.org/awards/ysqso>. The contest begins at 1400 UTC Saturday, August 29 and runs throughout the weekend.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org

==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA,
k1sfa@arrl.org
==>ARRL News on the Web: <http://www.arrl.org>
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bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including
delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the
"Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify
membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change
your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all
automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.)
Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective.
(NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You
must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these
sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will
be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur
Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net
<http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL
cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this
listserver.)

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401. August 21, 2009 ARS License Numbers

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-08-29 00:22:12 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <44fc5738-adf5-4d2b-aeef-5c8df15886fd@z24g2000yqb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1811

These are the number of current, unexpired FCC-issued amateur radio licenses held by individuals on the stated dates, and the percentage of the total number of active licenses that class contains.

Percentages may not add up to exactly 100.0% due to rounding.

These totals do not include licenses that have expired but are in the grace period, nor do they include club, military and other station-only licenses.

Effective April 15, 2000, FCC no longer issued new Novice, Technician Plus and Advanced class licenses, so the numbers of those license classes have declined steadily since then.

Also since April 15, 2000, FCC has renewed all existing Technician Plus licenses as Technician. The number of Technician Plus licenses still in effect is now less than 1000, and by May 2010 they should all be gone.

It is therefore informative to consider the totals of the two classes, since the Technician class includes a significant number of Technician Plus licenses renewed as Technician.

On February 23, 2007, the last Morse Code test element, the 5 wpm receiving test, was eliminated as a requirement.

The current total number now exceeds the May 14, 2000 number.

The ARS License Numbers:

As of May 14, 2000:

Novice - 49,329 (7.3%) Technician - 205,394 (30.4%) Technician Plus - 128,860 (19.1%) General - 112,677 (16.7%) Advanced - 99,782 (14.8%) Extra - 78,750 (11.7%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 334,254 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 674,792

As of February 22, 2007:

Novice - 22,896 (3.5%) Technician - 293,508 (44.8%) Technician Plus - 30,818 (4.7%) General - 130,138 (19.9%) Advanced - 69,050 (10.5%) Extra - 108,270 (16.5%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 324,326 (49.5%)

Total all classes - 654,680

As of August 21, 2009:

Novice - 17,308 (2.6%) Technician - 329,427 (48.8%) Technician Plus - 626 (0.1%) General - 148,908 (22.0%) Advanced - 61,018 (9.0%) Extra - 118,143 (17.5%)

Total Tech/TechPlus - 330,053 (48.9%)

Total all classes - 675,430

Changes:

>From May 14, 2000, to February 22, 2007:

Novice - decrease of 26,433 Technician - increase of 88,114 Technician Plus - decrease of 98,042 General - increase of 17,461 Advanced - decrease of 30,732 Extra - increase of 29,520

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 9,928

Total all classes - decrease of 20,112

>From May 14, 2000, to August 21, 2009:

Novice - decrease of 32,021 Technician - increase of 124,033 Technician Plus - decrease of 128,234 General - increase of 36,231 Advanced - decrease of 38,764 Extra - increase of 39,393

Total Tech/TechPlus - decrease of 4,201

Total all classes - increase of 638

>From February 22, 2007, to August 21, 2009:

Novice - decrease of 5,588 Technician - increase of 35,919 Technician Plus - decrease of 30,192 General - increase of 18,770 Advanced - decrease of 8,032 Extra - increase of 9,873

Total Tech/TechPlus - increase of 5,727

Total all classes - increase of 20,750

73 de Jim, N2EY

402. FW: [CQ-Contest] Special Announcement from 6Y1V

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-01 16:39:09 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h7jimm$1s4r$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1812
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

>From: "David Kopacz" <david.kopacz@aspwebhosting.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 8:08 PM
To: <cq-contest@contesting.com>; "Fabian Kurz" <mail@fkurz.net>
>Subject: [CQ-Contest] Special Announcement from 6Y1V

It's official! 2009 is the year of the Young Ham Contest Program!

Krassy, K1LZ and I (KY1V) have agreed to sponsor a Young Ham team for piloting the 6Y1V contest station in this years CQWW DX SSB contest!

What does this mean? Well, quite simply, four (4) very lucky young hams will be selected this year for an all expense paid trip to Jamaica.

Wow are we excited. Get your essays in quickly. September 30th is approaching fast!

73 and good luck!

David ~ KY1V

PS: Remember, we just create the opportunity. Get on the air and work these kids. YOU make their dreams come true!

>From: "David Kopacz" <david.kopacz@aspwebhosting.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2009 4:33 PM
To: <cq-contest@contesting.com>
>Subject: Re: [CQ-Contest] Why Are European Contesters Younger?

Since we're on the subject of youth and contesting, please take a moment to pass this to any young ham, a parent of a young ham or post in your next club publication.

Once again we are sponsoring one young ham operator (21 or under) to join our team and receive an all expense paid trip to operate in the 2009 CQWW SSB or CW contest with the 6Y1V team. You can reside in any country in the world and be considered for this opportunity provided you hold a valid amateur radio license in your country.

This is a gift to a young ham who has a passion for Ham Radio and DX'ing/contesting. It is our way of giving something back to this great hobby that has given so much to us!

To qualify, you must send an email to contest at 6y1v.com containing an essay of 500 words or more, in English, describing how you got started in ham radio, who guided you through the process (tell us about your Elmer), and tell us why you should be selected for this DX/contest opportunity. Please include your full name, call sign and home address.

We are looking for a young ham (21 or under), with some DX/contest experience, that would consider this opportunity a dream come true! You must have your parent's written permission to make the trip on your own, or they may join you, at their own expense.

We will continue to take applications from young hams until September 30, 2009. Our team will review all applicants for the young ham position and select one young ham to join us for this exciting DXpedition and contest opportunity.

We will pay all expenses for the young ham, including airfare, license fees, QTH rental share and food. The rest of the 6Y1V team will ensure this is the most memorable ham radio experience ever!

The selection process is based soley upon each young hams written essay of 500 words or more.

We are particularly interested in young hams that have never operated outside of their home country, have never been on any DXpedition and would not otherwise have opportunity to do so under any other circumstances.

www.6y1v.com/youth.htm

David ~ KY1V

403. FCC license for Midland GXT1000VP4?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-02 03:12:47 UTC
From: Smed <gsx1300r_busa@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <S5lnm.10482$u76.9196@newsfe10.iad>
Source record: 1813

New to the group. New to the subject. Trying to find any answers.

Some of my friends and I are planning a 110 mile canoe trip in Montana next year. I would like to bring along a pair of walkie talkies that are somewhat water proof, can accept AA batteries, have decent range, and have NOAA in case the weather takes a turn. I've been doing research and found the Midland GXT1000VP4 walkie talkies fit the bill.

Of all the websites I hit, only one brings up the FCC license subject. I can't get a direct answer from anyone since everyone is trying to sell them to me and not worried about what I think after they got my money.

Will I need an FCC license? They say the radios work right out of the box but some of the channels might be blocked without the license. How much is the license? Are the unblocked channels over crowded and worthless?

I guess there is no way around this. ??

Thanks.

Smed

404. Re: FCC license for Midland GXT1000VP4?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-02 11:27:56 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <PqqdnThAs6wLcADXnZ2dnUVZ_oidnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1814

Smed wrote:
> Some of my friends and I are planning a 110 mile canoe trip in Montana
> next year. I would like to bring along a pair of walkie talkies that
> are somewhat water proof, can accept AA batteries, have decent range,
> and have NOAA in case the weather takes a turn. I've been doing
> research and found the Midland GXT1000VP4 walkie talkies fit the bill.
>
> Of all the websites I hit, only one brings up the FCC license subject.
> I can't get a direct answer from anyone since everyone is trying to sell
> them to me and not worried about what I think after they got my money.
>
> Will I need an FCC license? They say the radios work right out of the
> box but some of the channels might be blocked without the license. How
> much is the license? Are the unblocked channels over crowded and
> worthless?

AFAIK, if you use only the FRS channels, you won't need a license. You
won't get to use the higher power settings, though.

If you want to use high power, you'll need to apply to the FCC for a
GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) license.

See http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html for details on the
application process.

I wouldn't worry about it if I were you: you're going to an isolated
area, you'll be talking across water most of the time, and so I think
FRS will be fine.

HTH. YMMV.

Bill, W1AC

405. Re: FCC license for Midland GXT1000VP4?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-02 12:31:41 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <4A9E6596.5000708@pobox.com>
Source record: 1815

Smed wrote:

> Will I need an FCC license? They say the radios work right out of the
> box but some of the channels might be blocked without the license. How
> much is the license? Are the unblocked channels over crowded and
> worthless?

There are two radio service available to you that these devices support.

FRS, Family Radio Service, does not require a license of any kind. The maximum power is 1/2 watt. The radio will automatically reduce power on FRS-only channels.

GMRS, General Mobile Radio Service, does require a license. Higher power is allowed, and the amount available will depend on the device. I went to the Midland site and they do not list the actual power output for the radio, which for me would be enough that I would not buy the radio.

Bottom line: How much range do you need? If your communication will be over open water, the 1/2 watt that the FRS provides will be more than adequate, and you can probably find much cheaper units at your local big box store that will fill the bill. If you have a need to communicate over longer distances, which I can't see happening on a canoe trip, go with a more powerful unit that supports GMRS and get the license. But do not believe the claims on the web site of 36 mile range; you might get 36 miles over open water with full power on GMRS, but in general use I would expect no more than a couple of miles at best.

I don't think you will run into any problems with channel overcrowding on FRS channels, especially in the wilds of Montana. Pick something other than "1" and you should be fine. And should you run into another group that has picked the same channel, all you need to do is change.

And "blocked" is rather a misnomer. The radio doesn't know if you have a license. FRS and GMRS share some channels, and the license is required to use high power.

Have a good trip.

73, Steve KB9X

406. Re: FCC license for Midland GXT1000VP4?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-02 17:53:20 UTC
From: Smed <gsx1300r_busa@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <iSvnm.164133$Qg6.145953@newsfe14.iad>
Source record: 1816

"Bill Horne" <...
> Smed wrote:
>> Some of my friends and I are planning a 110 mile canoe trip in Montana
>> next year. I would like to bring along a pair of walkie talkies that are
>> somewhat water proof, can accept AA batteries, have decent range, and
>> have NOAA in case the weather takes a turn. I've been doing research and
>> found the Midland GXT1000VP4 walkie talkies fit the bill.
>>
>> Of all the websites I hit, only one brings up the FCC license subject. I
>> can't get a direct answer from anyone since everyone is trying to sell
>> them to me and not worried about what I think after they got my money.
>>
>> Will I need an FCC license? They say the radios work right out of the
>> box but some of the channels might be blocked without the license. How
>> much is the license? Are the unblocked channels over crowded and
>> worthless?
>
> AFAIK, if you use only the FRS channels, you won't need a license. You
> won't get to use the higher power settings, though.
>
> If you want to use high power, you'll need to apply to the FCC for a GMRS
> (General Mobile Radio Service) license.
>
> See http://www.fcc.gov/Forms/Form605/605.html for details on the
> application process.
>
> I wouldn't worry about it if I were you: you're going to an isolated area,
> you'll be talking across water most of the time, and so I think FRS will
> be fine.
>
> HTH. YMMV.
>
> Bill, W1AC
>

Thanks for the reply!

Even if I'm on FRS without a license, will that effect the NOAA channel or
does that just limit the transmissions and not the receptions?

Thanks again.

Smed

407. Re: FCC license for Midland GXT1000VP4?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-02 17:53:28 UTC
From: Smed <gsx1300r_busa@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <xSvnm.164134$Qg6.120759@newsfe14.iad>
Source record: 1817

"Steve Bonine" <...
> Smed wrote:
>
>> Will I need an FCC license? They say the radios work right out of the
>> box but some of the channels might be blocked without the license. How
>> much is the license? Are the unblocked channels over crowded and
>> worthless?
>
> There are two radio service available to you that these devices support.
>
> FRS, Family Radio Service, does not require a license of any kind. The
> maximum power is 1/2 watt. The radio will automatically reduce power on
> FRS-only channels.
>
> GMRS, General Mobile Radio Service, does require a license. Higher power
> is allowed, and the amount available will depend on the device. I went to
> the Midland site and they do not list the actual power output for the
> radio, which for me would be enough that I would not buy the radio.
>
> Bottom line: How much range do you need? If your communication will be
> over open water, the 1/2 watt that the FRS provides will be more than
> adequate, and you can probably find much cheaper units at your local big
> box store that will fill the bill. If you have a need to communicate over
> longer distances, which I can't see happening on a canoe trip, go with a
> more powerful unit that supports GMRS and get the license. But do not
> believe the claims on the web site of 36 mile range; you might get 36
> miles over open water with full power on GMRS, but in general use I would
> expect no more than a couple of miles at best.
>
> I don't think you will run into any problems with channel overcrowding on
> FRS channels, especially in the wilds of Montana. Pick something other
> than "1" and you should be fine. And should you run into another group
> that has picked the same channel, all you need to do is change.
>
> And "blocked" is rather a misnomer. The radio doesn't know if you have a
> license. FRS and GMRS share some channels, and the license is required to
> use high power.
>
> Have a good trip.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X
>

First, thanks for the reply!

As far as how much power do I need, I really don't think I will be talking to anyone at any great distance for the most part. The safety issue is what I'm mostly looking at with the NOAA radio and in case we need to contact emergency personnel (we plan on bringing a Spot Satellite GPS Messengers). Where we are setting on, there really isn't any set off points for around 110 miles and cell phones will be worthless.

So if I have this right, the FRS channels limit the radio to 1/2 a watt but if you switch over to the GMRS channels you can boost it to full power? Is there a block out or password for the GMRS channels? If I had to switch over to the GMRS to contact help, will the radio allow me access to the more powerful channels?

Thanks again and sorry for the newbie questions.

Smed

408. Re: FCC license for Midland GXT1000VP4?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-02 20:42:35 UTC
From: dplatt@radagast.org
Message-ID: <9u13n6-eum.ln1@radagast.org>
Source record: 1818

In article <4A9E6596.5000708@pobox.com>, Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> wrote:

>Bottom line: How much range do you need? If your communication will be
>over open water, the 1/2 watt that the FRS provides will be more than
>adequate, and you can probably find much cheaper units at your local big
>box store that will fill the bill. If you have a need to communicate
>over longer distances, which I can't see happening on a canoe trip, go
>with a more powerful unit that supports GMRS and get the license. But
>do not believe the claims on the web site of 36 mile range; you might
>get 36 miles over open water with full power on GMRS, but in general use
>I would expect no more than a couple of miles at best.

I'd expect a 36-mile range only if you're standing on top of a
mountain, talking with someone else who is also standing on top of a
mountain, with a clear line-of-sight between the two mountain tops.

In cluttered ground-level applications, I agree, a couple of miles is
about the best you can expect. In hilly terrain it's likely to be
less than that.

>I don't think you will run into any problems with channel overcrowding
>on FRS channels, especially in the wilds of Montana. Pick something
>other than "1" and you should be fine. And should you run into another
>group that has picked the same channel, all you need to do is change.
>
>And "blocked" is rather a misnomer. The radio doesn't know if you have
>a license. FRS and GMRS share some channels, and the license is
>required to use high power.

There are also some GMRS-only channels. A license is required to use
these at *any* power level. I don't know whether the Midland radio in
question has access to these channels at all.

See the following URL for the FCC's take on the issue:

http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=service_home&id=general_mobile

A GMRS license currently costs $85, and is good for five years. The
license covers an adult applicant and his/her immediate family.

--
Dave Platt <dplatt@radagast.org> AE6EO
Friends of Jade Warrior home page: http://www.radagast.org/jade-warrior
I do _not_ wish to receive unsolicited commercial email, and I will
boycott any company which has the gall to send me such ads!

409. Re: FCC license for Midland GXT1000VP4?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-02 23:14:23 UTC
From: Howard Lester <howardlester@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <s4Bnm.852$Jd7.492@nwrddc02.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1819

"Dave Platt" wrote

> I'd expect a 36-mile range only if you're standing on top of a
> mountain, talking with someone else who is also standing on top of a
> mountain, with a clear line-of-sight between the two mountain tops.

Where I used to work we used Kenwood Freetalk FRS (1/2 watt) radios. From the ground, I was able to "work" a co-worker who was at 8500' some 38 miles away, but I had to position myself between buildings so that I could literally see the mountain. We were not quite full-quieting, but pretty well up there. Those radios are pretty impressive.

Howard

410. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1673 - September 4 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-04 11:59:11 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090904010124.016a4490@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1820
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1673 - September 4 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1673 with a release date of
Friday, September 4, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Wildfires rage in Southern California and
hams go on alert, the father of A-P-R-S proposes a universal ham radio
text messaging initiative, a Virginia ham will commemorate the memory
of those lives lost on 911 and more about those disappearing sunspots.
All of the details coming your way on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report
number 1673 right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO AND THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Ham radio has been put on alert as wildfires rage across the state of
California. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in our newsroom in hot and
smoky Los Angeles with what we know so far:

--

On alert is probably the best way to describe amateur radio's role so
far as emergency responders and firefighters from across the region
responded to a series of wildfires sparked by the intense heat gripping
the great American Southwest and what appears in some cases to be human
carelessness. Investigators will eventually determine the causes but
those of us who live and word in the region only want to see them out.

The biggest of the blazes, and the one that affected ham radio in
several ways is the Station fire that began in the foothills above the
San Gabriel Valley of Los Angeles and raced North across those hills to
threaten the city of Acton. As we go to air, the Station fire has
consumed 144,000 acres in an area that's about 20 miles high by 30
miles wide and is now only about 38% contained. At least 50 homes have
been lost and two firefighters lost their lives when their engine fell
from a winding mountain road and tumbled some 800 feet.

Because of the hardening of the states radio communications system and
the redundancy of gear, few if any emergency communications facilities
were affected by any of the blazes. None the less, several of the
states Disaster Communications Service groups are on alert ready for
full activation at a moments notice. The largest of these is the group
allied to the K6CPT repeater operating on 145.300 MHz and serving the

greater Los Angeles area. As this is written, the repeater is in what can best be described as stand-by alert with all communications restricted to the assisting those fighting the Station fire.

Still with the Station fire, one ham radio repeater network was partially taken off the air by it. Dick Mc Kay, K6VGP, who operates the multiple-site Disaster Amateur Radio Network or DARN reports that their radios on Mt. Disappointment were taken off the air when the fire raced up the hill and took out the power lines. News photos show that one building that housed radio equipment was destroyed, but according to K6VGP the bunker that houses the ham radio system is concrete and its hoped that the radio system survived. The photo shows that the DARN antenna system is still there but its likely that the transmission line from the repeater to it may have melted away.

Dick says that he won't know the condition of the radio gear until he is allowed to make a trip up the mountain to visually inspect the site. The DCS system 145.3 MHz mentioned earlier is also on Mt. Disappointment and is still operating using a massive battery back-up system. This is one of the best ways McKay can be certain that the building that houses both repeaters is still in tact.

And as we go to air, that's about all that's known regarding ham radio in the current spate of fires in the region. But as those of us who live out here know, the worst months of what we call the fire season lies ahead. That comes in a few weeks when the seasonal Santa Ana winds team up with the dry and hot fall weather to create the potential for wind driven brush fires that have been known to swoop down and destroy entire communities within minutes. With this having been an exceptionally hot and dry year, everyone including ham radio first responders will be on high alert until the winter rains come, if we have any this year at all.

Reporting from Los Angeles where the sky is yellow with smoke, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, for the Amateur Radio Newsline

--

It will be a while before many of these wildfires are declared contained or controlled and we will have follow-ups in future Newsline reports. (ARNewsline with assistance from CGC Communicator, K6VGP, K6OQK, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: A UNIVERSAL HAM RADIO TEXT MESSAGING INITIATIVE

A universal ham radio text messaging initiative has been proposed by the ham who gave the hobby APRS. Writing in the special emergency communications issue of QST magazine, Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, introduces a broad new initiative to find ways to seamlessly connect many of the dozens of existing amateur radio text messaging capabilities together.

Bruninga's concept is that of a universal information exchange between ham radio, the Internet, cellphone and other broadband devices. Also included is the ability to do station tracking using APRS and message exchange to and from DTMF equipped ham radio gear.

Under the WB4APR concept all a ham radio operator would need would be his or her callsign as a text address to have emergency test messaging available. His article titled a Universal Ham Radio Text Messaging Initiative begins on page 72 of the September issue of QST. (ARRL)

**

HISTORY REMEMBERED: W0YR TO COMMEMORATE 911

A ham in Virginia will take to the airwaves to remember the lives of those who perished in the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001. Michael Lonneke, W0YR, of Round Hill, says that his year after year operation as W0YR stroke 911 has several objectives. First is to honor and commemorate the lives of those lost in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center Twin Towers in New York City, the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and the plane that crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Lonneke also says he does this every year to remind those whom he contacts of what this country endured on September 11th 2001 because of hatred. He also wants to remind those who would be revisionists of history and who want to minimize or forget the attacks that they were an act of terror against our nation.

Lonneke says that he will be operating CW, RTTY and SSB 10 through 80 meters and that a special QSL will be issued. QSL Mike via W0YR at his callbook address.

W0YR says that the memory of those who perished on September 11th, 2001, will never be forgotten. Two of those who died were his friends. (W0YR)

**

SOLAR PROPAGATION: FINALLY A SHORT LIVED SUNSPOT

The imminent demise of Sunspot 1025 seems to reinforce our report last week on the work of astronomers Bill Livingston and Matt Penn of the National Solar Observatory in Tucson, Arizona. They have found that sunspot magnetic fields are definitely waning and believe that sunspots could completely disappear within a few decades.

According to Spaceweather dot com, sunspot 1025, which emerged on Monday, August 31st to interrupt a string of 51 spotless days. Sunspot 1025 was described in an eHam.net posting by Thomas Giella, NZ4O, as a small solar cycle 24 sunspot group that had emerged in the northern and western hemisphere of the Sun. But it did not last very long. On Wednesday, September 2nd, Spaceweather announced that sunspot 1025 was rapidly fading away. (Spaceweather, eHam)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: FIRST EVER EME DXPEDITION TO MONGOLIA

Some breaking DX news. This with word that JT1UN and JT1UN/5 will be the call signs of the first ever E-M-E DXpedition to Mongolia by W7EME, and K7YO. The operation will begin on October 10th and continue through the 14th. W7EME will operate JT65B on 144 MHz with K7YO on 432 MHz. Equipment on 2 meters will be a single M2 yagi and 450 watts output. The70 centimeter station will run 250 watts to a pair of long beams. More details are at www.mmmonvhf.de/latest.php?id(49 (MMMonVHF)

**

WORLDBEAT: RADIO CHINA TO VACATE 7.1 TO 7.2 MHz HAM SPECTRUM

Good news for hams who use 40 meters. The IARU Region 1 website reports that Radio China is to stop broadcasting on five frequencies in the 7.1 to 7.2MHz range.

Chinese authorities say that they have made frequency adjustments to their broadcasting schedule as it affects all transmissions that were previously operating in the new, exclusive, worldwide 7.1 to 7.2MHz amateur radio band. Transmissions from the Radio China transmitters should be out of that spectrum shortly. (ARRL, WIA, others)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the 2 Rivers Amateur Radio Club's W3OC repeater serving Monroeville Pennsylvania.

(5 sec pause here)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAMS NEEDED TO ASSIST IN BOSTON JIMMY FUND WALK

Steve Schwarm, W3EVE, says that he is in need of several hams to help with the Jimmy Fund Walk on Sunday September 13th This is a one day event dedicated to conquering all forms of cancer held on the Boston Marathon course and taking up most of the day.

Steve says that as with the Marathon, radio amateurs on 2 meter FM will be on posted on transport busses and at each first aid and water stations. If you live in the Boston area or will be there on the day of the event please contact Steve by e-mail to w3eve (at) earthlink (dot) net. More on the event is on line at www.jimmyfundwalk.org (W3EVE)

**

WRONG HEADED ENFORCEMENT: FCC CITES CALIFORNIA RESIDENT OVER DEFECTIVE INDOOR TV ANTENNA

You may find this one hard to believe, but the FCC has issued a Citation to California resident Irma Frausto for using a defective amplified indoor television antenna in the residence in the city of Compton. One that she could not possibly know was playing havoc with a nearby cellular telephone site. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

--

On August 13th agents from the Los Angeles FCC Office investigated a complaint that something was interfering with the operation of a Verizon cellular site. The agents T-hunted the interference to the Frausto's residence. Further investigation revealed that the source of the interfering signal was a Philips model MANT 300 amplified television antenna installed on top of a television set in the Fausto home. .

Apparently the antennas internal amplifier had broken into self-oscillation on 840.356 MHz. The spur was strong enough to interfere with the input to a Verizon local cell site. And you would think that's where it would all end. Disconnect the faulty antenna and problem solved. But that's not where this story ends.

On August 20th the FCC issued a Citation to Irma Fausto naming her as the responsible party. Why the FCC chose to issue a Citation rather than the usual warning letter or any letter at all is not explained.

And if we may editorialize a moment, even stranger is the demand by the FCC that Ms. Fausto respond to the Citation and specify what actions have been taken to correct the violation when its likely all she would do is return it to where she bought it or throw the thing in the nearest garbage can. At least that's what we would do.

We also wonder if the FCC intends to follow up with Philips to make certain that no other MANT 300 amplified indoor antenna is causing similar problems elsewhere in the United States. One would think that Phillips is the responsible party in this scenario since it was the one who manufactured the defective amplified antenna in the first place.

Lastly we must ask why so much emphasis is being put on reprimanding a citizen for something beyond her control when there are far more important matters to contend. This definitely includes cleaning up the now almost two decade old rats nest of jamming, filthy language, illegal broadcasting and other violations found on 14.275 MHz in the 20 meter band. Violations that the FCC seems to be turning a blind eye to no matter how much the ham radio community complains.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting and editorializing from Los Angeles.

--

Oh yes. Those of you interested in a good lesson in government bureaucratese can read the entire text of the Citation issued to Irma Fausto at http://www.fcc.gov/eb/FieldNotices/2003/DOC-292933A1.html (CGC, FCC, ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC ORDERS TV STATION TO STOP ITS ANALOG AUDIO TRANSMISSIONS

The FCC has ordered a television broadcaster to cease its audio transmissions on 87.9 MHz in the FM broadcast band. Since last June 12th conversion of all TV from analog to digital the digital signal of Freedom Broadcasting's WRGB-TV, channel 6 in Schenectady , New York has been broadcasting its audio over analog 87.9 FM, but it was apparently without permission.

Now the FCC orders that the station cease doing so immediately and WRGB has complied. Station manager Robert Furlong admitted in a posting to the stations website that it did not have FCC authorization to transmit any analog signal at this time. Furlong said that the station is reviewing for getting the station back on FM. (FCC)

**

WORLDBEAT: ZL 3 CM CONTACT IS NOT A WORLD RECORD

A follow up to last weeks story on the hams down-under setting what some thought might be a new worlds record for the 3 centimeter band. According to Gene Zimmermann, W3ZZ, who writes the World Above 50 MHz column for QST magazine, that 3 cm microwave contact may have been a record for New Zealand but it's definitely not a terrestrial world record.

According to Gene, as recently as August 25th K2LNS operating at WA2FGK worked W9ZIH over a distance of 1086 km. Many longer contacts across the Mediterranean have also been made. Currently, the world terrestrial record is I stroke DJ3KM to 4X slash DJ4AM. That one was over a path of 2079 km. (W3ZZ)

**

HAM HELP REQUIRED: AMSAT NEEDS TWO PUBLICATION VOLUNTEERS

AMSAT-North America currently has two positions that need a volunteer to jump in and assist with its publishing efforts.

First, the AMSAT Journal needs a person who can provide translation from German to English. This is because AMSAT-DL has published several significant updates about the Phase 3 E satellite project which need to be shared with English speaking operators. The same volunteer would also be tasked with translation from English to German to enable sharing of articles both ways.

Also, the weekly AMSAT News Service ANS Bulletins has an opening for an editor to take on news gathering and reporting work. This is a rotating position shared with 3 existing editors so your duty would occur approximately once every 4 weeks.

If you can help please contact AMSAT Vice President of User Services, Gould Smith, by e-mail to wa4sxm@amsat.org (AMSAT-NA)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: VW MOBILE DXPEDITION NEEDS OPERATORS

A three month mobile DX expedition in a restored 1971 VW van is looking for operators. The course will begin in Mexico in November and wind up in Tierra del Fuego off the southernmost tip of the South American mainland. Those interested must be in good health, expect an arduous high drama journey and be ready for weather variations ranging from the searing heat of the Amazon jungle to the bitter cold of windswept Cape Horn. For more information, contact K0GMO by e-mail to gorvonj4@frontiernet.net . (K0GMO)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: FREE DXPEDITION TRIP FOR A YOUNG HAM

The operators of the 6Y1V contest station in Hopewell, Jamaica, are offering a young radio amateur the chance to join their team for the 2009 CQWW SSB or CW contest. Applicants must be age 21 or younger. The operator selected will receive an all expense paid trip to join the teams operations in one of the two contest operations. The 6Y1V group calls this project a gift to a young ham whom has a passion for ham radio, DX'ing and contesting. It says that it's the groups way of giving something back to this great hobby that has given so much to them. More information is on line at www.6y1v.com/youth.htm (6Y1V)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DIGICON 09 IN IRELAND SEPTEMBER 19

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word that the Northern Ireland Digital Communications Conference known as Digicon 09 takes place on Saturday September 19th . The venue is the Technology Education Center in Tyrone, Ireland. The Digicon 09 features lectures on D-STAR, Satellite Communication, Digital ATV, Echolink and more. Further details are on line at www.wtarc.co.uk (MI0MSO)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING THE 19TH ORKNEY INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL

The Orkney Wireless Museum Amateur Radio Station in the United Kingdom will be in operation from its premises at Kiln Corner, Kirkwall through Wednesday 9 September. This, during the 19th Orkney International Science Festival. Probable operating periods will be weekdays and Sunday afternoons between 2.30 and 4.30pm and Saturday morning between

10 am and 12.30pm. Operation of this special events station will be primarily on High Frequency SSB. The Science Festival attracts participants from as far away as Australia, Slovenia, Ghana, Russia, Denmark, Spain, as well as from across the UK. Topics range from studies of the ice of the Antarctic to the Cross River gorillas of Nigeria and the Cameroon. (Southgate)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DAYTON 2009 VIDEOS FROM ARVN

And back in the United States, producer Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, spent his days at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention with camera in hand. Now after three months of editing in his North Carolina studio, Gary and his Amateur Radio Video News organization has released what he called the 2009 Dayton Collection. This years set includes the FCC forum where you get to know the new ham radio rules enforcer Laura Smith. Also included are the ARRL, TAPR and Software Defined Radio sessions along with a tour of all the goodies to be seen at this years Hamvention. For details take your web browser to www dot arvideonews dot com. (ARVN)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MEASURING THE NEAR INFRA-RED SPECTRUM

In what may prove to be a major development for scientists in fields ranging from forensics to quantum communications, researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology have developed a new, highly sensitive, low-cost technique for measuring light in the near-infrared range. According to Science Daily, the technique can measure the spectrum of the specific wavelengths of near infrared light used widely in telecommunications as well as the very weak infrared light at single-photon levels given off by biomaterials and nanomaterials. More on this interesting scientific concept can be found on-line at http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/08/090826152723.htm (Science Daily)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FO-29 IN RECOVERY MODE

In ham radio space related news, JE9PEL reports that the Fuji Oscar 29 ground control stations have been working on recovering this satellite. This, after an outage reported by users during the week of August 24th.

As of August 28 the control station has succeeded in transmitting commands to the satellite and received good response. But to be on the safe side FO-29 is available only when it is over Japan so that the control station can command the satellite, retrieve telemetry data, and analyze the results.

The receiver aboard FO-29 is used for both command and transponder operations. If it were open for general world-wide use there might be far too many stations attempting to uplink to the bird that would interfere with ground controllers efforts to command the satellite.

Fuji Oscar 29 controllers say that they will advise when the satellite becomes available for general amateur radio use. Check the AMSAT website for the latest information on the satellites availability. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: GOOD NEWS FOR ARISSAT-1

Some good news regarding the ARISSat-1 project. The ARISS International Team has been informed that there is still space available for shipment of the ARISSat-1 electronics on the projected cargo flight to the International Space Station in January of 2010.

As reported last week, ARISSat-1 is the new name for SuitSat-2. This, the result of the spacesuit that was to house SuitSat-2 being cast away from the International Space Station several weeks ago.

And speaking of SuitSat-2, word is that the spacewalk to launch it is still set for April 2010. Only now it will likely be the ARISSat-1 deployment instead. (ANS)

**

WORLDBEAT: 6 TO 10 METER CROSSBAND REPEATER PROPOSED IN THE UK

A new 6 meter to 10 meter crossband repeater may soon come on the air from the United Kingdom. G3ZXX reports on a meeting with the nations Emerging Technology Coordination Committee which is responsible for vetting all repeater proposals within the UK and with telecommunications regulator Ofcom. He says that no special authority in the form of a Notice of Variation has been granted for the machine. However, subject to some minor changes to the application its hoped that it will be approved. Further information and updates on this project re at the URL found at http://twxrg.web.googlepages.com/home (G3ZXX)

**

WORLDBEAT: NEW VK 137 kHz BEACON ON THE AIR ON WEEKENDS

The Wireless Institute of Australia reports that a new low frequency beacon is on-the-air from the township of Wonga Park. Operated by Drew Diamond, VK3XU, the system consists of a 50 watt transmitter into a long-wire antenna operating CW on 137.4 kHz. Its on the air Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings local time. QSN reports go to Drew by e-mail to vk3xu (at) wia (dot) org (dot). Please provide the date, time, signal strength and grid locator of the received signal at your station. (WIA)

(WIA)

**

ON THE AIR: 4U1VIC TO OPERATE WORKED ALL EUROPE DX CONTEST

On the air, word that the Vienna International Center Amateur Radio Club station 4U1VIC will be on the air during the Worked All Europe DX Contest on September 12th and 13th. This will be a SSB only operation with the station is located in the secured United Nation campus in Vienna, Austria. Due to access restrictions, the operators will not be able to be on the air continuously for the full 48 hours, however they will be on the air as much as possible. QSL this operation via the bureau. A new video about the 4U1VIC is available at www.vimeo.com/6301009 (OPDX)

**

ON THE AIR: CELEBRATING RAILWAYS IN IRELAND

And from Erin's Isle comes word that GB2STI will be on the air again this year from the Railway Preservation of Ireland base in Whitehead County Antrim. This in celebration of the Open House Day of the Society. Operation will be on Sunday the 13th of September and as an added attraction there will be train rides on site. All QSL's go via the bureau to GI0KPF. (IRTS)

**

ON THE AIR: ZS10WCS TO CELEBRATE 2010 WORLD SOCCER GAMES

As of September 1st, members of South Africa's Boland Amateur Radio Club have taken to the air as Zed-S-10-W-C-S. This, to commemorate the upcoming 2010 World Cup Soccer games. The special event station will be on the air over weekends South Africa time as propagation conditions allow. Full details of preferred frequencies and QSL information are available on www.sarl.org.za. (Boland Amateur Radio Club)

**

DX

In DX, word that Bob Paton VK0BP, is currently working at the Antarctica Davis Base Station and will be there until November 1st. Check for him on 14.010 to 14.350 MHz from about 1500 to 1800 UTC on

SSB and PSK31. The Shortwave Central blog says Bob may also activate other field huts in the area where he will sign-on as VK0BP slash P. QSL as directed on the air.

EA5BZ and possibly other operators from the U-R-E Contest Group will be active as C37URE from Andorra during the CQWW DX RTTY Contest. This, on September 26th and 27th. QSL via EA5BZ.

F4EUG, will be active from Guadeloupe portable FG through September 10th. His activity will be on all bands and modes. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

HB9VELO will be on the air throughout September to mark the U-C-I Road World Championships taking place in Mendrisio, Switzerland. Operation is SSB, CW, PSK and RTTY on all bands. The QSL manager is HB9OCR.

A station signing C31LJ slash M heard on August 27th is reported to be a pirate operation. VE3EXY the real C3ILJ is currently in Canada.

HS8JYX, is planning to be in the CQWW DX SSB from Thailand. That radio sport event takes place October 24th to the -25th and he will enter as a Single-Op/Single-Band 20 meter entry. QSL via HS8JYX.

OY4TN reports that OY2J is once again active from Faroe Island after being QRT for many years. He has retired from his job and has finally found time to set up his radio station again. Reports indicate that he has been on 20 meters using CW and SSB.

Higher in frequency, N8OFS will be using the special callsign N8O on 6 meters from Geneva State Park in Grid EN91MV. This for the Ohio State Parks On The Air and ARRL September VHF Contests on September 12th between 1800 and 2400 UTC. Operation will be FM only on 52.525, 52.54, 52.49, 52.51 and 52.55 MHz. QSL direct only to N8OFS

Lastly, where there is no 4 Meter band in I-T-U Region 2, its widely used in Region 1 especially in Europe. Now word that G0HIK, with 2 friends, will be traveling to the Scottish island of Isla for a week from September 12th. He hopes to be active for the 4 Meter contest on Sunday 13th. He will probably be using 150 Watts into a 7 element beam on 70 MHz, and possibly 2 meters with a 13 element beam and 200 watts. If you have a 70 MHz receiver, you might want to listen out for this 4 meter signal from across the Atlantic pond.

Above from various DX news sources

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: AN ADDED FEATURE FOR A POPULAR HT

And finally the story of a strange feature of a popular HT. One that could save your life. Well, maybe. Marilyn Syme, VK3DMS, of the WIA News has this rather dramatized comedy report:

--

A practical example of the Emergency feature on the FT-60R. After testing the Emergency feature of the FT-60R, a web poster has scenario created the following for your enjoyment.

>From the manual: "Use this feature if you are out on a walk and want a quick way of alerting a family member to a dangerous situation. The alarm sound may discourage an attacker and allow you to escape."

(It might work this way)

Mr. Ham : "It's a lovely day for a walk."

Attacker: "I'm going to attack you."

Mr. Ham : "Wait right there, Mr. Attacker while I unlock my FT-60R keypad, place it in VFO mode, set the volume to maximum, and hold down the Emergency key shortcut for 2 seconds."

FT-60R: *blink, blink, blink* *beep, beep, beep*

Mr. Ham: "Ah ha! Now Mr. Attacker, my blinking LCD display and DTMF keypad will blind you while the beeping sound will disorient you."

Attacker: "Oh no!"

Mr. Ham: "In 60 seconds, my FT-60R will also send SOS de CALLSIGN via CW on the UHF calling frequency and any amateur radio operator within 1/2 mile who both knows the frequency of and is monitoring the UHF calling frequency will hear *beep, beep* on his radio too. He will then return home and either retrieve his UHF direction finding go-kit or improvise some from the ARRL Handbook. When he returns and locates my position, he will then call the authorities and inform them of my situation."

Attacker: "I am discouraged."

Im Marilyn, VK3DMS.

--

Well, that might work down-under but here in the USA the radio would likely be up for sale on the Internet long before you could report the theft to the local police. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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411. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 35 (Friday, September 4, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-04 18:08:10 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090904173905.BE7D432D72@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1821
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 35
September 4, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Get Set for the 2009 Simulated Emergency Test
* + ARES Awaits Activation for LA-area Wildfires, Tropical Storms
* + The Doctor Is IN the ARRL Letter
ARRL in Action: What Have We Been Up to Lately?
* + Get Ready for the Upcoming ARRL September VHF QSO Party
* + Happy Birthday, Hiram!
* + September Is National Preparedness Month
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL to Close in Observance of Labor Day
+ Allen Baker, KG4JJH, Wins August QST Cover Plaque Award
W1AW Earns TPA #306
Manufacturer of Texas Bug Catcher Antenna to Cease Operations
Den Connors, KD2S (SK)

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> GET SET FOR THE 2009 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

It's time to get ready for the 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test! ARRL
Field Organization leaders are planning an event that will actively
involve members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio
Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the ARRL National Traffic
System (NTS) and many other related groups that prepare for and respond
to emergencies. Public service agencies and organizations in your
community, ARRL Section or state will also be invited to participate.
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You, too, are invited to be a part of this ARRL sponsored nationwide exercise on October 3-4, 2009, or whenever it is held in your area.

Although October 3-4 is the focal point weekend, ARRL Sections, ARES teams and nets may conduct their exercises anytime -- and especially during September through December. If you don't know who to contact, please touch base with your ARRL Section Manager and/or Section Emergency Coordinator or Section Traffic Manager for assistance. See page 16 of QST for Section Manager contact information or check the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/sections/>. From there, you'll find links to ARRL section pages with appropriate contact information. There can be a role for you no matter what your level of experience. After all, it is a training opportunity to try out something new under simulated emergency conditions, learn or practice useful skills in traffic handling and net operation, and observe emergency communications protocols and management.

ARRL Field Organization officials in your area and Section are planning the simulated emergency scenarios that will be used during the SET event. These scenarios are designed to help you gain valuable operating experience, or to practice what you have learned previously or to put your Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training into action. In any emergency -- real or simulated -- a number of public service or public safety agencies and organizations are often also involved in the response.

ARRL Section Leaders and local or district-level leaders are encouraged to work closely with these served agencies, and the SET is a great chance to demonstrate the capabilities of Amateur Radio in the community and beyond. For more information on whom the ARRL maintains a National Memoranda of Understanding with, check this page <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/>. Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for ARRL Section and Field Leaders will be posted online <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms>. Please report your SET activities to your Section Leaders and to HQ.

==> ARES AWAITS ACTIVATION FOR WILDFIRES, TROPICAL STORMS

Even as the Station fire threatens Los Angeles' communications infrastructure atop Mt Wilson and Tropical Storm Erika and Hurricane Jimena die down in the tropics, amateurs -- including ARES groups -- await being called to help.

Mt Wilson houses many antennas for television and FM radio stations in the Los Angeles area, as well as antennas for pagers, cell phones and even Amateur Radio repeater systems. But even as the fire encroaches on these vital communications links, the infrastructure is still in place and working.

"We have established coordination with Dennis Smith, KA6GSE, the Section Emergency Coordinator for the Los Angeles Section," said ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD. "As of the

afternoon of Thursday, September 3, no ARES missions have been established. Of course, if the communications infrastructure at Mt Wilson is compromised in any way, area ARES groups will be ready to do whatever is needed to provide communications support."

As of Friday afternoon, what was once Tropical Storm Erika has weakened and is now classified as a remnant over the northeastern Caribbean.

Angel Santana-Diaz, WP3GW, an ARRL Public Information Officer in Puerto Rico, told the League that "at 8:10 AM [on Thursday, September 3], I made contact with Lionel Ellis, J69KZ, on St Lucia on 7.169 MHz, where he does a regular net. I asked him how were they doing, and he told me that there are thunderstorms and copious rain, but nothing serious at the moment. I am monitoring the band if something comes up. Over here in Puerto Rico, the government is finishing the preparations to be ready when Erika passes by, which is expected to be tomorrow, possibly as a tropical depression." The NWS said that unsettled weather will spread across the US and British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico later Thursday, continuing through Friday. It would then spread across Dominican Republic and Haiti this weekend and possibly into the Bahamas early next week.

Pacific Hurricane Jimena -- a Category 1 storm -- made landfall near the southern Baja near San Buenaventura, Mexico on Wednesday, September 2. According to the NWS, there have been reports of damage to poorly constructed buildings, major beach erosion over the southern Baja and flash flooding; resorts along the southern tip of Baja California did not experience any major damage. Jimena has now weakened over land and has been downgraded to a tropical storm over the central Baja, with maximum sustained winds decreasing to 45 miles.

The NWS said that Jimena will likely become a depression late Thursday and then drift slowly west and southwest as a remnant low on Friday. Heavy rains and flooding will be the primary impacts over the central Baja and adjacent portions of the western coast of Mexico. Some gusts to tropical storm strength are still possible.

Dura said that WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio station at the National Hurricane Center <http://www.wx4nhc.org/>, has also been monitoring Erika and Jimena, but did not activate for the storms. "There really aren't that many amateurs in the affected areas, which makes reporting conditions quite difficult," he said. "We here at ARRL HQ are keeping a close eye on everything."

==> THE DOCTOR IS IN THE ARRL LETTER

This week, ARRL Letter readers are in luck! The ARRL's very own Doctor, author of the popular QST column "The Doctor Is IN," answers a question from his mailbag:

Jim Walker, KN6TC, of Wiggins, Mississippi, asks: My repeater's PC controller to radio interface provider requires a "COS (Carrier Operated Signal) from the radio." The manufacturer states that this "greatly

reduces drop out and falsing" that are sometimes experienced while using VOX receive/transmit control. It seems to be an alternate for VOX, but I have failed to receive an answer as to what it is in terms I can understand. Neither radio nor interface providers have responded to my e-mail questions.

The Doctor answers: Early repeaters were generally switched to transmit by a carrier operated relay, or COR. The relay would be actuated if the repeater receiver detected a carrier on frequency, as indicated by the opening of the squelch. This was a much more reliable switching mechanism than if the repeater transmit switching responded to detected speech (VOX), since VOX could toggle back and forth due to gaps in speech.

In the early days of repeaters, the equipment was constructed around vacuum tube and relay technology. Current technology is based on solid state devices -- including transistor switching -- that is more reliable than the earlier electromechanical relays. Thus, the more general term "COS" for Carrier Operated Signal, Carrier Operated Squelch or Carrier Operated Switch is often used instead of COR. For more information, check out this Web site <http://www.repeater-builder.com/tech-info/repeaterterm.html>.

Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org> or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of August.

The Central and Roanoke Divisions will hold elections for Vice Director on November 20. The incumbent Directors in the Central, Hudson, New England, Northwestern and Roanoke Divisions faced no opposition and were declared elected <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/26/11041/?nc=1>.

The ARRL responded to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making, ET Docket 09-36, concerning implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz (70 cm) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/12/11020/?nc=1>.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote a letter to the National Safety Council, highlighting issues regarding the use of Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/09/11012/?nc=1>.

The DXCC Desk approved the 2000 DXpedition to Yemen, 7O1YGF, for DXCC credit. Amateurs may also apply for DXCC credit for 7O1YGF via Logbook of The World <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/12/11022/?nc=1>.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, attended meetings of United States Working Party 5A (the Land Mobile Service excluding IMT, plus the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services). He also worked on a proposal for the 500 kHz agenda item for WRC-12. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, attended meetings of US Study Group 1 (regulatory). He is preparing for ITU-R meetings, scheduled for later this month in Geneva.

Come October 1, there will be new Section Managers in the Los Angeles, South Texas and Georgia Sections <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/19/11027/?nc=1>.

The ARRL announced that it will honor the 140th birthday of co-founder Hiram Percy Maxim by authorizing eligible amateurs to add /140 to their call signs from September 2-9 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/17/11025/?nc=1>.

All 2009 Field Day logs that have been received have been posted to the Claimed Scores page on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=9141>.

The ARRL Executive Committee reviewed grant applications for the ARRL's Education & Technology Program (ETP), awarding nearly $9000 to eight schools <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/11/11016/?nc=1>.

The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology wrapped up. During 2009, 93 teachers from 29 states attended eight sessions -- including two at ARRL HQ -- and a new TI-2 for previous TI graduates <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/05/11003/?nc=1>.

W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, changed over to new digital modes <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=9068>.

The October issue of QST, the September/October issues of QEX and NCJ and the 2010 edition of The ARRL Handbook were released to the printer.

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for August is Allen Baker, KG4JJH, for his article "A 10 Meter Moxon Beam" <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=9153>.

Staff Travel: Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, traveled to Tokyo for Ham-Fair and GAREC 2009; Field and Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, represented the ARRL at the Kansas State Convention; Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, traveled to the New Mexico State Convention; Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, attended the West Virginia State Convention and the IEEE Electromagnetics Compatibility Society EMC Symposium in Texas; Field and Public Service Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, represented the League at the National Conference on Community Preparedness, and Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, went to the Texas State Convention.

==> GET READY FOR THE UPCOMING ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF QSO PARTY

September is here, and according to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, that means the VHF bands are getting a workout. "If you've never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the ARRL September VHF QSO Party <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html> is a great place to start.

"With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities -- and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well -- any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands," he said. "Getting on the VHF bands is simple," he said. "If you have a radio that can transmit on both CW and SSB, that's great, but you can operate on either mode." When operating on VHF, Kutzko explained that your Maidenhead grid square is the common geographical information exchanged <http://www.arrl.org/locate/gridinfo.html>.

While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex (especially near large population centers), Kutzko said that most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB; that means horizontally polarized antennas: "A dipole for 6 meters is only 9 feet, 4 inches long and is an easy construction project," he explained. "Try to get the dipole in the air as high as possible, but even 15 feet off the ground will make some QSOs. If you have an antenna tuner that can handle 6 meters, you can try loading up another of your antennas on 6 meters with reasonable success. For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts." You can find plans for simple VHF antennas at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/other-v.html>, in the Antennas chapter of The ARRL Handbook <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-HB2009>, or in the VHF and UHF Antenna Systems chapter of The ARRL Antenna Book <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9876>.

Kutzko advises that there are a few things to know about operating on 6 meters: In the US and Canada, there is a "calling frequency" on 50.125 MHz USB. Most SSB activity will take place between 50.125 MHz and 50.250 MHz. If conditions are exceptional, Kutzko said you may hear signals above 50.250: "CW signals can be found from 50.100 MHz to 50.080 or so. The frequencies between 50.100 and 50.125 MHz are a 'DX Window,' meaning it is reserved for QSOs between W/VE and DX stations. Please do not make stateside-to-stateside QSOs in the DX Window."

Because VHF+ antennas are relatively small, Kutzko said that many amateurs operate from portable locations, such as a hilltop or a campground. Others operate the contest as a "rover," operating from their car or truck while transmitting from multiple grid squares over the contest period. "Tracking rovers during the contest is almost as much fun as the contest itself," he said.

The ARRL September VHF QSO Party runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, September 12 through 0300 UTC Monday, September 14. Be sure to use those extra bands on your transceiver and get in on the fun you've been missing on 6 meters and up! <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/sepvhf.html>

==> HAPPY BIRTHDAY, HIRAM!

On Tuesday, September 2, the League celebrated the 140th anniversary of the birth of ARRL's co-founder and first President, Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW. Maxim -- born in 1869 -- decided a national organization for Amateur Radio was in order after he needed a "relay" station in Agawam, Massachusetts to pass a message he was sending from Hartford to Springfield, Massachusetts. In honor of The Old Man's (TOM) birthday, the ARRL is holding a week-long Special Event, where eligible amateurs may add /140 to their call signs. A complete list of who may add /140 can be found on page 20 of the September 2009 issue of QST. Hams who work at least 25 /140 stations can earn an attractive certificate; this certificate can be endorsed in increments of 25 QSOs, up to 100 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/17/11025/?nc=1>.

Maxim was no stranger to technology. He entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Class of 1886) and graduated at the tender age of 16. Through the activities of his son Hiram Hamilton Maxim, TOM became interested in Amateur Radio. In 1908, he filed for a patent for a firearms silencer <http://www.google.com/patents/about?id=dWJ-AAAAEBAJ>; the patent was granted the following year. Maxim used this technology to make silencers for guns, motor exhausts, safety valves and air releases. In all, Maxim received 59 patents, most of them in the field of mechanical engineering.

In 1928, Maxim, along with other dignitaries of the day -- including Thomas Edison -- attended a party at the home of George Eastman, the founder of Kodak. TOM was an avid film buff and was even involved in the early days of motion pictures. Check out this video (available on YouTube) of a dapper Maxim at Eastman's party <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osqjdVZDxCg>.

"I hope everyone enjoys our Special Event honoring Hiram Percy Maxim," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "I know if TOM was alive today, he would be on the air, having a ball!" Maxim, together with Clarence Tuska, founded the ARRL in 1914. Maxim served as President of the ARRL from its inception until his death from complications stemming from a throat infection in 1936. -- Thanks to Howie Lash, AE0KU, for bringing the YouTube clip to our attention

==> SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Once again this year, ARRL is a coalition member of the National Preparedness Month. This event is an annual nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

National Preparedness Month 2009 is sponsored by the US Department of Homeland Security. The goal is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action. Throughout September and the months surrounding it, Homeland Security will work together with a wide variety of organizations, including local, state and federal government agencies

and the private sector, to highlight the importance of family and business emergency preparedness, as well as to promote individual involvement through events and activities across the nation.

More information can be found online <http://www.ready.gov>. You are encouraged to consider this year's ARRL Simulated Emergency Test and all preparations as well as post exercise evaluations as a demonstration of your readiness and Amateur Radio's readiness. Be an active participant in SET, and join others nationwide in National Preparedness Month.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The Sun burns crimson bright" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: This week we saw another one of those fast-disappearing sunspots -- it lasted just two days, over the last day of August and the first of September. No other sunspots were observed during the month of August. Sunspot numbers for August 27-September 2 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 12, 12 and 0 with a mean of 3.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 67.7, 67.9, 68, 67.2, 68.3, 69.1 and 68.2 with a mean of 68.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 2, 2, 19, 5, 4 and 3 with a mean of 5.7. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 2, 12, 5, 2 and 2 with a mean of 4.1. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Shel Silverstein's "Where the Sidewalk Ends" <http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/where-the-sidewalk-ends>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the All Asia Contest and Colorado QSO Party are on September 5-6. The Tennessee QSO Party is September 6-7. Next week is the ARRL September VHF QSO Party September 12-14. There are two NCCC Sprints this week -- one on September 11 and another on September 12. The WAE DX Contest (SSB), the Arkansas QSO Party and the FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend are September 12-13. The North American Sprint (CW) and the SKCC Weekend Sprint are both September 13. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is September 17. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, September 20, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, October 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference;

Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Close in Observance of Labor Day: ARRL Headquarters will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 7. There will be no W1AW bulletin or code practice transmissions that day. ARRL Headquarters will reopen Tuesday, September 8 at 8 AM Eastern Daylight Time. We wish everyone a safe and festive holiday weekend.

* Allen Baker, KG4JJH, Wins August QST Cover Plaque Award: The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for August is Allen Baker, KG4JJH, for his article "A 10 Meter Moxon Beam." Congratulations, Allen! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the September issue by Wednesday, September 30.

* W1AW Earns TPA #306: On September 1 -- after W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, made contact #149 (CW) and #150 (RTTY) with Mark Stull, AB8WV, of Parkersburg, West Virginia -- W1AW received Triple Play Award #306 on September 2. "Finally, after eight months, W1AW can now boast the ARRL's newest award, the TPA," Carcia said. "What makes this so very cool is that we received this award on Hiram Percy Maxim's 140th birthday." The Triple Play Award is earned by hams who, after January 1, 2009, achieve Worked All States on three modes -- CW, SSB and Digital -- and upload their logs via Logbook of The World. Find out more about the Triple Play Award on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>.

* Manufacturer of Texas Bug Catcher Antenna to Cease Operations: After October 31, 2009, GLA Systems -- the manufacturer of the Texas Bug Catcher antennas <http://www.texasbugcatcher.com/> -- will cease taking orders for new antennas; according to their Web site, all orders received before that date will be filled. "Effective November 1, only orders for items that are in stock at the time will be accepted. Effective December 31, 2009, the toll free line, 1-800-588-2841, will be

discontinued." No reason was given for the closure, but on GLA's Web site, owner Henry Allen, K5BUG, said. "It has been a fun 30 years, but it is time to hang it up. I would like to thank everyone who has made this experience possible."

* Den Connors, KD2S (SK): The first president of Tucson Amateur Packet Radio (TAPR) <http://www.tapr.org/> Den Connors, KD2S, of Pepperell, Massachusetts, passed away September 3 from lymphoma. He was 58. Connors, an ARRL Life Member, conducted the first amateur packet radio contact with all-American hardware and software, using the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Terminal Node Controller (TNC) with Lyle Johnson, WA7GXD (now KK7P), at 9:12 PM (PST) on June 25, 1982. The tests were conducted at 146.55 MHz, with both stations sending plain-text ASCII messages. "Den was instrumental in the early PACSAT work, and as TAPR's first president, led that organization from a local club he co-founded into an international organization," Johnson said in an e-mail. "His was a very cheerful, positive, can-do influence."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during

registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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412. Schematic needed, Yaesu G-1000DXA rotor and controller

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-07 22:57:13 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h8433m$1una$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1822
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

Blown fuse and hot transformer smell ---

Anyone have a schematic, or point me toward one on line?

Email me k0hb-at-ultradx-dot-com

Thanks.

73, de Hans, K0HB
--
"Just a boy and his Radio"
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Request QSL at ---> http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/K0HB
All valid QSL requests honored with old fashioned paper QSL!
LoTW participant

413. Re: Schematic needed, Yaesu G-1000DXA rotor and controller

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-08 22:22:05 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h86ldtkjr1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1823
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc

"Kï¿½HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:h8433m$1una$1@adenine.netfront.net...
> Blown fuse and hot transformer smell ---
>
> Anyone have a schematic, or point me toward one on line?
>
> Email me k0hb-at-ultradx-dot-com
>

I've found a schematic and found that the power transformer puked and die
d,
so I've ordered a new transformer from Yaesu.

The old transformer, model KT-28-A is an "open frame" style with numbered

solder terminals.

Current production transformers, model KT-28-E-3, don't have numbered sol
der
terminals, but rather colored wire outputs (unfortunately not labeled).

Does someone have a recent G-1000DXA (or G-800DXA) who wouldn't mind lift
ing
the cover to tell me the wire colors of:

1) 110V primary
2) 28V secondary to the PS board (bottom board)
3) 16V secondary to the CNTL-Unit board (top board)

Thanks!

73, de Hans, K0HB
--
"Just a boy and his Radio"
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Request QSL at ---> http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/K0HB
All valid QSL requests honored with old fashioned paper QSL!
LoTW participant
--

414. FCC Daily Digest 09/10/2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-10 15:49:38 UTC
From: noreply@info.fcc.gov
Message-ID: <ADMIN-44256-268834-2009.09.10-11.02.11--rec-radio-info#panix.com@info.fcc.gov>
Source record: 1824
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Daily Digest

Vol. 28 No. 180
September 10, 2009
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE DATED AND RELEASED TODAY:

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Report No: 47067 Released: 09/10/2009. BROADCAST ACTIONS. MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293368A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293368A2.txt

Report No: 27067 Released: 09/10/2009. BROADCAST APPLICATIONS. MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293366A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293366A2.txt

Released: 09/10/2009. EX PARTE PRESENTATIONS AND POST-REPLY COMMENT
PERIOD FILING IN PERMIT-BUT-DISCLOSURE PROCEEDINGS (1 OF 2). OMD .
Contact: Jason Lewis at (202) 418-0310
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293364A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293364A1.txt

Released: 09/10/2009. EX PARTE PRESENTATIONS AND POST-REPLY COMMENT
PERIOD FILING IN PERMIT-BUT-DISCLOSURE PROCEEDINGS (2 OF 2). OMD .
Contact: Jason Lewis at (202) 418-0310
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293365A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293365A1.txt

Released: 09/10/2009. AMATEUR SERVICE OPERATION IN CEPT COUNTRIES.
(DA No. 09-2031). WTB . Contact: William Cross at (202) 418-0680,
email: William.Cross@fcc.gov
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2031A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2031A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2031A1.txt

Released: 09/10/2009. COMMISSION EXTENDS COMMENT AND REPLY COMMENT
DEADLINES FOR MOBILE WIRELESS COMPETITION NOTICE OF INQUIRY (FCC 09-67).
(Dkt No 09-66). Comments Due: 09/30/2009. Reply Comments Due:
10/15/2009. (FCC No. 09-72). WTB . Contact: Chelsea Fallon at (202)
418-7991, email: Chelsea.Fallon@fcc.gov. Action by: WTB

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-72A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-72A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-72A1.txt

Released: 09/10/2009. COMMISSION REVISES APPLICABLE EX PARTE PROCEDURES FOR WIRELESS INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT NOTICE OF INQUIRY (FCC 09-66) AND EXTENDS COMMENT AND REPLY COMMENT DEADLINES. (Dkt No 09-157 09-51). Comments Due: 09/30/2009. Reply Comments Due: 10/15/2009. (FCC No. 09-73). WTB . Contact: Peter Trachtenberg at (202) 418-7369, email: Peter.Trachtenberg@fcc.gov
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-73A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-73A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-73A1.txt

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TEXTS

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WXNH(AM), JAFFREY, NH. Denied Steven Wendell's petitions for reconsideration of actions denying tolling and dismissing application to modify facilities. Action by: Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2032). MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2032A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2032A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2032A1.txt

FARM AND HOME BROADCASTING COMPANY. Granted the application to assign Station WFRM(AM), Coudersport, Pennsylvania, to L-Com, Inc. Action by: Chief, Audio Division, Media Bureau by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2033). MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2033A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2033A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2033A1.txt

* * * * *

ADDENDA: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, RELEASED SEPTEMBER 9, 2009, DID NOT APPEAR IN DIGEST NO. 179:

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NEWS RELEASES

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FCC ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 29TH OPEN MEETING. News Release. News Media Contact: Jen Howard at (202) 418-0506, email: Jen.Howard@fcc.gov OCH
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293363A1.doc

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293363A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-293363A1.txt

415. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1674 - September 11 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-11 07:22:44 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090911001912.034d8118@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1825
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1674 - September 11 2009

Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank you's to those who support these newscasts, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ

--

In the month of September 2008 we heard from regular contributors Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of Columbus, OH; William Walters, WA2IBM in San Jose and Stephen Perluss and the South Orange Amateur Radio Association in Mission Viejo.

Via PayPal there was Christopher Johns- Brewton, AL; Harry Bump and the Lebanon Valley Society of Radio Amateurs in Richland, PA and Barry Youmans and the Silvercreek Amateur Radio Association, W8WKY in Rittman, OH.

In October we heard from Pete Ostopchuk, N9SFX and Elkhart Electronics in Osceola, IN. Via PayPal there were Martin Falk and Erik Fuller, KE5VBO

Remember that these newscasts don't just spontaneously erupt- they require us going and getting the news. That requires internet and telephone service, and for some reason, the service providers have very little humor when it comes to pay for their services. To help us keep these humorless people otherwise happy, please write to us at the Support Fund address given at the end of this newscast, or use our easy PayPal link on our website, arnewsline.org.

Thank you. I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, at our (cough, cough) smoky studios here in Los Angeles.

--

Andy will be back with us in the near future with more than-you's to those who have contributed to the support fund. (ARNewsline(tm) Support Fund)

**

Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1674 with a release date of Friday, September 11, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Ham radio assists as Hurricane Jimena hits Baja California, a ham looses his home in a California brushfire, South Africa's latest ham radio satellite is made ready for launch and the

International Amateur Radio Union says its time to fight back against spectrum intruders using the Morse code. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1674 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAM RADIO VS HURRICANE JIMENA

Ham radio has become the main communication artery into and out of portions of Baja California, Mexico. This, after hurricane Jimena, packing winds approaching 145 miles hour came ashore after first hitting the tip of Baja California Mexico. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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Until now most hams have never heard of the Sonrisa Net. It meets daily at 13:30 UTC on 3.968 MHz. But in recent days this net has become the communications backbone out of parts of Baja California that were ravaged by Hurricane Jimena.

According to David Stein, KE6ENI, its Geary Ritchie, WB6PKH, of Danville, California, who operates on the Sonrisa Net that has been one of the principal information conduits into and out of the storm ravaged area. Among the reports that he received on Thursday September 3rd and Friday September 4th from hams in Baja was that the main long bridge north of Santa Rosalia was down. So were several of the new bridges between Mulegï¿½ and Santa Rosalia. Also that there was major damage to the old Marina at Santa Rosalia, but no loss of boats and more important there was no loss of life.

Reports out of San Carlos are that several boats sank in the San Carlos harbor. Meantime, as of 8 am Pacific on Friday the 4th there was no electrical power in the towns of Loreto, Mulegï¿½, San Carlos and Santa Rosalia. Some cellular telephones were working though the towers were thought to be on emergency power.

As of the 5th there is still no power water or phone in the Mulegï¿½ area and Bahia de Conception. WB6KPH also confirmed that health and welfare traffic is being passed using amateur radio phone and digital modes to those back in the U.S. as well as those up and down the Baja Peninsula.

Obviously this information will be several days old by the time many of you hear it. As with any emergency, the situation in the wake of Hurricane Jimena is constantly changing and we will have more on these rescue radio efforts in an upcoming Amateur Radio Newsline report.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

Marcia Meyer, KI6INK, aboard her boat in Puerto Escondido near Loreto, was net control. She's been helping to connect people and allowed those on boats and on land in the U.S. and others stretched across Baja to connect with each other in an orderly manner. (Information supplied by David Stein, KE6ENI, via QRZ.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: N6MGM HOME LOST IN SOCAL ARSON BRUSH FIRE

The Station Fire still burning in the hills North of Los Angeles has claimed the home of Mark Moore, N6MGM. Terry Graves, K7FE, an editor at QRZ dot com says that he spoke to Moore on Monday, September 7th. Moore who works at Ham Radio Outlet in Burbank California wanted everyone know that he, his wife Amanda, K6MDY, their children and pets are all in good health. They are however emotionally devastated because the fire consumed the home, it's belongings and memories collected over many years. Moore's amateur radio station was also lost.

As of Monday, September 7th the Station Fire had destroyed 157,220 acres or about 230 square miles. The fire, already the largest on record in Los Angeles County, is reported to be about 50% contained but is not expected to be fully under control until September 15th at the earliest. In addition to the two firefighters who died on August 30th when their truck fell into a canyon during the blaze, nine firefighters have been injured in the Station fire which investigators say was caused by arson.

Through Terry Graves and QRZ dot com, Moore express his appreciation to all for your support and best wishes. He says that the family is fine and have a roof over its heads. He asks everyone to please focus their thoughts and prayers to those that lost everything and have no home to go to anymore. He adds to also please remember the two firefighters we lost in the firestorm. (K7FE via QRZ.com)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUMBANDILASAT A GO FOR SEPTEMBER 15 LAUNCH

South Africa's SumbandilaSat is still on track for September 15th launch. In an interview with South Africa AMSAT, Johan Erasmus, a systems engineer with SunSpace at the launch site in Kazakhstan, said that the satellite had traveled well and that all systems performed according to specification during the testing phase.

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Erasmus: "We've been busy since our arrival here, first to check out the satellite to make sure that it survived the journey fine. We have been checking the test results with the ones that we made before shipping and they all checked out fine. So we didn't have a y unexpected problems with the satellite itself."

--

Erasmus says that the beacon, parrot repeater and transponder were tested from a distance. He said that RF levels measured on the money and that everyone was delighted with the results. You can hear the entire interview with Johan Erasmus on line at www.amsatsa.org.za (Amateur Radio Mirror International)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SWISSCUBE MAY LAUNCH SEPT 21

And the HB9AFO SwissCube web page reports that ham radio satellite may be launched on September 21st. SwissCube is one of four amateur radio satellites that will be launched from India on an PSL-VC14 booster. More information on this hamsat is on line at tinyurl.com/SwissCube. (Southgate)

**

RADIO LAW: IARU SAYS TO MORSE INTRUDERS ON 40 METERS AWAY

A new way to fight intruders on 40 meters. Jam them with C-W.

The International Amateur Radio Union is encouraging amateurs to get on the air and use CW on the 7 MHz band. This is because Portuguese fishermen are abusing 7,000.4kHz using USB every morning between 07.00 and 09.00 UTC and later.

The fishermen are located off the North of Portugal. The IARU says that hams should use this frequency for CW traffic as much as they can. (Southgate, others)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Muncie Area Amateur Radio Club repeater, WB9HXG, serving Muncie Indiana.

(5 sec pause here)

**

HONORING A FRIEND: WALTER CRONKITE KB2GSD REMEMBERED

A memorial service for former CBS newsman Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, took place on Wednesday morning, September 9th in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. Among those present to speak at the service were President Barack Obama and former president Bill Clinton. The program also included presentations by Cronkite's son Chip and astronaut Buzz Aldrin.

Walter Cronkite anchored the CBS Evening News for 19 years from 1962 to 1981. During that time he became known as the most trusted man in America. His legacy in the world of amateur radio are the two videos he hosted for the American Radio Relay League. These are "Amateur

Radio Today" and "The ARRL Goes to Washington."

As previously reported, Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD, died on July 17th from complications to cerebrovascular disease. He was 92 years old. (ARNerwsline(tm) from published reports)

**

ENFORCEMENT: HAM EXPLAINS WHY HES QUITTING EMMCOMM AT WORK

A ham who posted on an Internet website that he had assisted in an emergency communications drill at work has come forward to explain why he was contacted about his action by FCC ham radio rules enforcer Laura Smith. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more:

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In his posting to the QRZ.com website, Jeffery Casselberry, W0WLS, says that last July he volunteered to take part in a state sanctioned communication drill which was backed by the Missouri Hospital Association. At that time he was the only licensed amateur in the facility so he said yes.

According to Casselberry this drill took place during business hours while he was on the clock. He explained that he had built the amateur station for the hospital and with it the facility better than most in communicating locally and to the state capital.

W0WLS went on to say that he was so thrilled about the drills success that what he made what he terms as the mistake of posting his excitement on the QRZ website. Someone who read it decided to cut and paste his comments and send them off to the FCC. As a result, W0WLS says that he received an informal email from the FCC's Smith acknowledging his violation and requesting a response.

Casselberry says that he responded to Smith and explained in detail the events of his alleged violation. Smith responded with the following e-mail which reads as follows and we quote:

"Jeff: Again, just so we are clear, Section 97.113 (a)(3) of the Commission's rules specifically states that "no amateur station shall transmit: communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer." This means that if you are an employee of the hospital you may not operate the amateur equipment on their behalf even after hours or while you are on a break. The operation of the amateur equipment must be conducted strictly by volunteers." -- end quote.

Casselberry went on to say that he does not want to become a poster child for some emergency communications cause on QRZ.com. He says that he is done with this type of ham radio activity and it will never happen again. He's even gone so far as to tell his employer that he is done with this type of radio activity and will take no further part in it's emergency communications program.

W0WLS ends by noting that he is a hobbyist and don't need this sort of turmoil in my life. As such, he will make no further comments on this issue.

I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

A link to the complete on-line discussion about this topic can be found at http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t!6670 (QRZ)

**

RESCUE RADIO: ARRL SECTION EMERGENCY TEST OCTOBER 3 - 4

The 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test or SET takes place the weekend of October 3rd and 4th. SET is an ARRL Field Organization event that will actively involve members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, the ARRL National Traffic System and many other ham radio related emergency response groups. More information on this years Simulated Emergency Test is on line at the ARRL website. You can find the exact U-R-L is http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: COWICHAN VALLY HAMS INVITED TO NEW EMERGENCY CORPS

Canada dot com reports that the Cowichan Valley Regional District in the province of British Columbia is looking to an alliance with local ham radio operators to assist in times of disaster. To that end, the District and the Cowichan Valley Amateur Radio Society are hosting two information sessions this month for amateur radio operators willing to be part of a regional emergency communications team.

Meetings were scheduled at for the mornings of September 5th and the 19th. Sybille Sanderson is the Districts public safety education coordinator. She says the idea is to find out what we do in emergency communications, the kind of training we're going to be offering and the kinds of places where radio amateurs could help.

The Cowichan Valley is a region around the Cowichan River and Cowichan Lake on Vancouver Island, in British Columbia. Those hams volunteering could help at the neighborhood level and emergency centers in the event of a flood, earthquake, a massive power outage or other catastrophic event. (Canada.com)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: RAC ASKED TO HELP FIND ELMER HAMS

The Army Cadet League of Ontario, Canada is considering the establishment of a Royal Canadian Army Cadet radio network based on amateur radio technology. Dubbed 'ACORN', for 'Army Cadet Ontario Radio Network', the aim is to support optional training and

certification of Army Cadets as licensed Amateur Radio operators throughout Ontario.

Radio Amateurs of Canada has been asked to facilitate this project by identifying hams who live in the various pilot areas and who have the interest, time and qualifications to mentor and provide instruction to young would-be hams. Amateurs will also be needed to assist in setting up and managing amateur radio stations.

Any interested Canadian radio amateur residing in a pilot areas is asked to contact Rod Hardman, VE3RHF by e-mail to rod (dot) hardman (at) gmail (dot) com. Military experience would be helpful but is not a requirement. (RAC)

**

RADIO VANDALISM: ELF CLAIMS TO HAVE TOPPELED TWO RADIO TOWERS IN WASHINGTON

A radical group calling itself the Earth Liberation Front is claiming responsibility for toppling two radio station towers in Snohomish County Washington early Friday morning, September 4th. The towers, owned by station KRKO were felled using a stolen machine called an excavator. A sign left at the scene said the Earth Liberation Front was responsible.

The two towers have been at the center of controversy for several years. There are four towers currently at the location and there have been plans to build two more. Opponents of the expansion claim that radio waves can harm people and wildlife. More recently, nearby residents said that signals interfering with home phone and intercom lines have increased since KRKO recently boosted its broadcasting power.

The station is still broadcasting on a backup transmitter and antenna. It says that it is going to offer a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for this criminal act. (Published reports)

**

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY: OALKAND CENTER FLIGHT COMS GO OUT

Air traffic controllers at a major control center in California say they were forced to use their personal cellular telephones to guide dozens of planes. This, when the aircraft direction communications system briefly went out on Wednesday, August 26th.

The communications outage affected about half of the roughly 80 controllers on duty at the Oakland Center in Fremont. Gone for several minutes were both radio and telephone communications. According to news reports the controllers said they used personal mobile phones to contact other controllers to relay flight plan information to airplanes in Western region.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a statement saying that at no time were any planes were in danger during the 15-minute outage and that only five flights were delayed. (Published Reports)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: PEORIA SUPEFEST 2009 ON SEPTEMBER 19 - 20

The Peoria Superfest 2009 will be held September 19th and 20th at the Exposition Gardens in Peoria Illinois. The event will feature a giant outdoor flea market with both new and used equipment, numerous technical forums, and over $2000 in prizes. More information is on line at www.peoriasuperfest.com (Superfest)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: FAMED BROADCASTER JIM WHITE KM0X - SK

Famed St. Louis radio personality Jim White, KM0X, has passed away. According to his close friend Bob Heil, K9EID, Jim died on Wednesday, September 2nd of complications to surgery. White had entered the hospital for an operation to remove his spleen. Bob says the surgery went well but several hours later a blood clot took Jim life.

Jim White was a true legend on the St. Louis airwaves. He spent most of his broadcast career at KMOX radio where for 30 years he was known as "The Big Bumper." According to Bob Heil, White gained the name 'Big Bumper' because he always started off his late night show by saying -- quote -- I am one of the things that go bump in the night. And while at KMOX the Arbitron service placed White's nightly show in the number one spot holding down a 33 point rating for all of those years.

In addition to his own show, for 25 years, White, who previously held the call W0NJB, and Bob Heil did the 'High Tech Heil' segments on Wednesday nights. And for many years Jim wanted the KMOX call on his license plates. But there was one person who stood in the way. That is until the Vanity Call Sign program came along:

--

K9EID: "The General Manager at KMOX never wanted anyone to have the KMOX license plate so each year he would purchase the plate and put it in a file. It never showed up on anyone's car. When Jim got the KM0X vanity call he ordered the plate. Missouri does not put the slash through the zero so Jim had KMOX on his license. He always thought that

was a very cool thing and we always got a laugh out of it."

--

Bob tells Newsline that he misses Jim very much. He says that the two of them were not only close friends but that they had this great on-air rapport and started in 1977. They spent their airtime having a lot of fun telling the listeners in the 44 states covered by the stations 50,0000 watt signal about these new hi-tech "toys' coming to the consumer marketplace. And at least once a month they would do a segments about amateur radio that resulted in a lot of call ins from hams. Bob says that after Jim retired and moved to Orange, Alabama, the two of them kept in contact on 75 meter SSB.

Jim White, KM0X, is survived by his wife Pat, two daughters and four grandchildren. A memorial service was to be held Tuesday, September 8th at St. Andrew by the Sea Church in Gulf Shores, Alabama. Contributions in Jim Whites name may be made to the Salvation Army in St. Louis or the Christian Service Center in Gulf Shores. (K9EID, STLToday, ARNewsline(tm))

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DATA PIONEER DEN CONNORD, K2DS - SK

And the changing of the guard in ham radio continues. This with word that amateur radio data and space communications pioneer Dennis T. "Den" Connors, KD2S, passed away September 3rd at St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua, New Hampshire, from Hodgkins Lymphoma.

Den Conners was the first president of Tuscon Amateur Packet Radio overseeing the groups transition from a local Tucson , Arizona-based club into the multi-national TAPR organization. He was a major force in the adoption of AX.25 as the amateur packet protocol standard.

Under his leadership, TAPR introduced the TNC-1 and then later the TNC-2 Terminal Node Controllers. These units are credited with introducing the world of digital text communications to the ham radio masses. Connors also worked with AMSAT North America's Tom Clark, K3IO, to define an amateur store-and-forward packet radio satellites. This concept eventually morphed into the AO16, IO-26, AO-27, and MO-30 Microsats..

A resident of Pepperell, Massachusetts, Den Conners was only age 58. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Community Church Memorial Fund, Post Office Box 320, Pepperell, Massachusetts, 01463 or to the National Marrow Donor Program at www.marrow.org. (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FO-29 RECOVERY EFFORT CONTINUES

Recovery efforts continue for the Fuji Oscar FO-29 ham radio satellite that as reported last week went silent during the week of August 24th. The latest word from JE9PEL is that some partial CW telemetry from FO-29 was received by PY5LF during the orbit 64384. Then the birds transmitter shut down once again.

JE9PEL says that at the present time the ground control team continues to analyze telemetry. Also, there are continuing attempts to restore the satellite to full operation each time it flies over Japan. The latest information on the satellite recovery effort can be found on line at www.ne.jp/asahi/hamradio/je9pel/fo29rest.htm (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: D-STAR THROUGH A HAM RADIO SATELLITE

Ever wonder what a D-Star digital voice might sound like from space? Here's the answer. Take a listen.

--

D-Star audio from space. Hear it in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast download them at www.arnewsline.org

--

That's Luc Leblanc, VE2DWE, who has made available a recording of his calling CQ using the D-Star digital audio through the AO-27.ham radio satellite. And while a bit mechanical sounding its among the cleanest and clearest audio ever relayed through a ham radio satellite.

Luc says that the uplink was on 436.797 MHz and the downlink audio was recorded on 145.850 MHz. The entire recording can be heard at Luc's website. Its in cyberspace at www.qsl.net/ve2dwe/ (VE2DWE)

**

WORLDBEAT: UK CEASES MANUFACTURE OF TV RECEIVERS

The production of television receivers marked made in the United Kingdom has ended. On Thursday, August 22nd the final TV rolled off the production line at Toshiba's factory in Plymouth, England marking an end to the manufacture of a technology the UK invented.

In the UK, John Logie Baird is the man credited with inventing the television receiver. He demonstrated his first television set to the world in 1926. His Baird Corporation was the world's only recognized TV manufacturer at the end of the 1920s, with their Televisor Model B being the first mass-produced, commercially available set.

In the United States the work of Baird is little known. Here the credit as to who was the inventor of modern television really comes down to two different people in two different places both working on the same problem at about the same time. They were Vladimir Zworykin, a Russian-born American inventor working for Westinghouse and later RCA, and Philo Farnsworth, a privately backed inventor from the state

of Utah. The duplicity of work eventually lead to a court battle that with patent priority status ruled in favor of Farnsworth in 1939. You can read the full BBC news report at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8222421.stm (Telegraph OnLine, BBC, Wikipedia.com, others)

**

DX

In DX, LZ2HM, will be active slash 5B from Cyprus through September 15th. Activity will be on the HF bands plus 6 and 2 meters He will be active as C4I on SSB in the Worked All Europe DX Contest on September 12th and 13th. QSL to LZ2HM using information on QRZ.com.

7Q7HB is again in Malawi for a period of up to 3 months. He is going to be active primarily on the Digital modes and CW. QSL direct only to G0IAS with sufficient funds for return cards. This station does not use the bureau nor any electronic QSL service. Just old fashioned paper cards only.

DL2MDU, will be active portable CT8 from the Island of Sao Miguel from September 13th to the 26th. His operation will be on all HF bands. QSL via his home callsign, by the bureau or electronically using Logbook to the World.

Members of Spain's Ondarroa Group will be active as EE2W from Ondarroa City during the CQWW DX CW Contest from November 28th to the 29th as a Multi-Multi entry. QSL via EB2BXL.

W6IZT, will be on the air stroke F S from St. Martin Island through September 13th. Activity is 40 through 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via N7XG, direct, by the bureau or Logbook to the World.

Lastly, WB5ZAM, will once again be active from St. Lucia as J68WI between September 28th and October 11th. Modes SSB and CW. QSL via WB5ZAM.

(Above information from various DX news services)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: SEARCHING FOR WALDO THE ROBOT

Lastly, scientists along Florida's Gulf Coast are trying to find a radio controlled underwater robot that has mysteriously vanished. Jerry Gaul, KE7GGV, has the details:

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Scientists at Mote Marine Laboratory have lost a bright yellow submersible research robot somewhere in the Gulf waters off Venice, Fliorida.

The sea going remote control research device from laboratory in Sarasota has been missing since Monday, August 31st. Scientists aren't sure what happened to the robot, which is nicknamed Waldo. Some think that it might have sprung a leak or suffered a malfunction and sunk. Others believe that It also could be on the surface, but its communication beacon or E-L-T has malfunctioned and that it cannot signal its location.

Waldo the sea going robot is 6-foot-long, weighs about 115 pounds, has short wings midway up its cylindrical body and cost about $100,000. He was also equipped with a detector to find a toxic algae bloom called red tide that was valued at another $30,000.

If you live along the Gulf Coast and see something bright yellow strange floating off shore, that could be the missing robot.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Jerry Gaule, KE7GGV.

--

If you find Waldo or even hear his radio signal you may be eligible for Mote Marine Laboratory's no-questions-asked reward. Their contact number is area code 941-388-4441. Ask for extension 271. (ScienceOnLine, Daily-Tech, others)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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416. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 36 (Friday, September 11, 2009)

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 36
September 11, 2009
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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
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==> NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL RESPONDS TO ARRL: NO EVIDENCE OF
"SIGNIFICANT CRASH RISKS" WHILE OPERATING MOBILE

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, wrote a letter to National Safety
Council (NSC) President Janet Froetscher in July expressing the ARRL's
concerns that Amateur Radio not become an unintended victim of the
growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers
<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Letter7-30-09.pdf>. Froetscher has
now replied, saying the NSC does not support bans or prohibitions on the
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use of Amateur Radios while driving
<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/NSC_Response_to_ARRL.pdf>.

Noting that there is significant evidence that talking on cell phones while driving poses crash risk four times that of other drivers, Froetscher observed that the NSC position calling for bans on the use of cell phones while driving is grounded in science. "We are not aware of evidence that using Amateur Radios while driving has significant crash risks," Froetscher wrote in her August 24 letter. "We also have no evidence that using two-way radios while driving poses significant crash risks. Until such time as compelling, peer-reviewed scientific research is presented that denotes significant risks associated with the use of Amateur Radios, two-way radios or other communication devices, the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibition on their use."

Froetscher said that while "the specific risk of radio use while driving is unmeasured and likely does not approach that of cell phones, there indeed is some elevated risk to the drivers, their passengers and the public associated with 650,000 Amateur Radio operators who may not, at one time or another, not concentrate fully on their driving." She points out that the "best safety practice is to have one's full attention on their driving, their hands on the wheel and their eyes on the road. Drivers who engage in any activity that impairs any of these constitutes an increased risk."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said the ARRL "appreciates NSC President and CEO Janet Froetscher's clear statement that the NSC does not support legislative bans or prohibitions on the use of Amateur Radio while driving. We applaud the NSC for taking positions that are grounded in science. At the same time, all radio amateurs should heed her call to concentrate fully on driving while behind the wheel. It is possible to operate a motor vehicle safely while using Amateur Radio, but if it becomes a distraction we owe it those with whom we share the road, as well as to our passengers, to put safety first."

On January 30, 2009, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted the ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation
<http://www.arrl.org/govrelations/MobileAmateurRadioPolicyStatement.pdf> that states "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles. Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless,

ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times."

In his letter, Harrison explained to Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

Froetscher replied that she "appreciate[s] your focus of Amateur Radio for emergency communications during disasters. I encourage ARRL to adopt best practices for the safe operation of vehicles that confines use of Amateur Radios while driving only to disaster emergencies."

The Policy Statement asserts that the ARRL "is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention. Quite the contrary: Radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

==> AMATEURS WITH GENERAL CLASS LICENSES TO BE GRANTED RECIPROCAL LICENSES IN SOME CEPT COUNTRIES

On Thursday, September 10, the Federal Communications Commission released a new Public Notice implementing changes in CEPT reciprocal operating arrangements for US citizens who hold an FCC-issued General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio licenses. DA-09-2031 continues to allows US licensees "to utilize temporarily an amateur station in a European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) <http://www.cept.org/> country that has implemented certain recommendations with respect to the United States," subject to the regulations in that country and implements recent changes in the agreement <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2031A1.pdf>.

When an Amateur Radio operator with US citizenship holds an Advanced or Amateur Extra Class license, they continue to be granted CEPT Radio Amateur License privileges in accordance with CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) <http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/Official/word/TR6101%20off%20140905.doc>. There is no change in reciprocity for those license classes. What has changed is that US citizens holding a General class license -- who had lost all CEPT reciprocal privileges in 2008 -- are now granted CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License privileges in accordance with ECC Recommendation (05)06 (as amended) <http://www.erodocdb.dk/docs/doc98/Official/word/Rec0506.doc>.

The Public Notice states that while operating an amateur station in a CEPT country, the person "must have in his or her possession a copy of this Public Notice, proof of US citizenship and evidence of an FCC-issued Amateur Radio license. These documents must be shown to proper authorities upon request." The Public Notice can be found online on the FCC's Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2031A1.pdf>.

According to ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, the changes in the CEPT reciprocity are a two-part result of changes made by the European Communications Office (ECO) in February 2008 when they re-examined US license class equivalency in comparison to their HAREC examination contest. "The result of that review was full CEPT reciprocity was only granted to US Amateur Extra and Advanced class licensees, leaving US General and Technician class operators without CEPT reciprocal privileges." The new public notice now reflects that change.

"In order to re-obtain at least some limited privileges under CEPT for those class licensees, the ARRL approached the FCC, asking that the US consider accepting ECC Recommendation (05)06" Henderson continued. "Reciprocal agreements between the US and other countries are actually diplomatic arrangements and come about through the agreements through the State Department. In the winter of 2008/2009, the FCC followed up on our request and contacted the US Department of State, asking that the US formally approach the ECO with a request to become party to the recommendation."

At its meeting in late spring 2009, Henderson said that the ECO working group that handles issues pertaining to Amateur Radio accepted the US request to join ECC Recommendation (05)06, and authorized US General Class licensees to operate under that recommendation's terms. It did not extend those privileges to US Technician class licensees.

Henderson stated that it is important to note two things about ECC Recommendation (05)06: "First, not all European countries have implemented this recommendation. Therefore, a US General class operator does not have reciprocal privileges in many countries, including popular US travel destinations like Italy, the UK or France. Second, as with any reciprocal operation, the band frequencies and privileges are those allowed by your host country -- they are not the frequencies and privileges extended by your FCC license. Travelers need to make sure they are familiar with the authorized privileges for the CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License if operating using ECC Recommendation (05)06 or T/R 61-01."

CEPT countries participating in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01 as of September 10, 2009 include Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Estonia, Finland, France (including Corsica, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Martinique, St Bartholomew, St Pierre and Miquelon, St Martin, Reunion and its Dependencies, Mayotte, French Antarctica, French Polynesia and Clipperton, New Caledonia, and Wallis

and Futuna), Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Monaco, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom(including Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).

CEPT countries participating in ECC Recommendation (05)06 as of September 10, 2009 are Belgium, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Germany, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Switzerland.

==> IARU, ARRL OFFICIALS ATTEND HAM FAIR, GAREC IN JAPAN

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, attended Ham Fair in Tokyo, Japan <http://www.jarl.or.jp/English/4_Library/A-4-6_ham-fair/ham-fair.htm>, August 22-23, at the invitation of Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) President Shozo Hara, JA1AN. "Ham Fair is by far the largest event of its kind in Asia. It is generally regarded as one of the 'Big Three' internationally, the other two being Dayton and Friedrichshafen," Sumner said. "It is held at Big Sight, a very large and modern exhibition facility on Tokyo Bay. Most attendees come by train or subway." According to JARL, more than 31,000 people attended the two-day event, with more than 20,000 coming on the first day. The 2009 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Conference (GAREC) was held in conjunction with the event <http://www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec/index.html>.

Sumner said that IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH, was able to schedule a business trip to Tokyo to coincide with Ham Fair: "On Friday, IARU Region 3 Secretary Jay Oka, JA1TRC, and JARL staff member Mitsu Sugawara, JN1LQH, gave Tim and me a tour of JARL Headquarters. ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, was already spending his second day at JARL HQ helping to check DXCC applications." Patton said he received more than 260 DXCC applications while in Japan.

On Saturday morning, Sumner and Ellam were invited to participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony that marks the beginning of Ham Fair. "This is a rather elaborately staged event," Sumner recounted, "complete with white gloves, golden scissors and a bank of photographers. After the ceremony, and as thousands of patient attendees streamed into the exhibit area, Mr Hara led a group of us to the convention Special Event station 8J1A, where he made the first QSO. Then he led us to visit some of the commercial exhibitors." Sumner said he had the opportunity to operate 8J1A on 20 meter CW for 25 minutes. "The station had multiple operating positions and was quite busy throughout the show," he said.

On Sunday afternoon, Patton shared his ideas for rejuvenating college and university club stations as a means of reaching prospective hams. "This was well received by the Japanese hams in attendance," Sumner said. Yoshi Tsutsumi, JE2EHP/K1HP, provided interpretation.

On Monday, Sumner, Ellam and Patton attended GAREC-09; there were about 30 participants from 14 countries at the conference. Former IARU Region 3 Secretary Keigo Komuro, JA1KAB, chaired the meeting. "I was asked to chair the Statement Committee that was responsible for producing the GAREC Statement <http://www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec/index.html>, summarizing the conclusions and recommendations of the conference," Sumner said. "IARU International Coordinator for Emergency Communications Hans Zimmermann, HB9AQS, who did not attend this year's GAREC, had provided a draft as a starting point, and it was only necessary to tailor it to what we actually talked about."

Ellam returned to Canada on Monday afternoon, and Sumner and Patton stayed through the end of the conference on Tuesday afternoon and flew home on Wednesday. Sumner thanked his Japanese hosts, saying, "We are grateful for the extraordinary hospitality extended to us by JARL."

==> DELEGATES DESCEND ON TOKYO FOR GAREC 09

Officials from the IARU and all three IARU regions, national IARU Member-Societies and specialized Amateur Radio emergency communications groups from around the globe gathered in Tokyo on August 24-25 for the Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC 2009) <http://www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec/index.html>. Hosted by the Japan Amateur Radio League, GAREC was held in conjunction with Ham Fair. More than 30 participants considered the statements from past GAREC conferences -- GAREC 05 (Tampere, Finland), GAREC 06 (Tampere, Finland), GAREC 07 (Huntsville, Alabama, USA) and GAREC 08 (Friedrichshafen, Germany) -- discussing the progress made on the implementation of the recommendations, and looking at recent experiences from exercises and actual emergency operations.

While GAREC is not a decision-making body, delegates made note of the relationships between the Amateur Service and organizations that are engaged in public protection and disaster relief, in particular the formal agreements and understandings that exist between the IARU and the United Nations, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) <http://www.itu.int/>, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) <http://www.ifrc.org/>. They also looked at reports on recent emergency communications operations, specifically the earthquake disaster relief operations in Japan in 1995, China in 2008 and Italy in 2009, as well as the 2009 Australian bushfires. Delegates also took into account the reports on Global SETs, Center of Activity Frequencies, Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/ale.html> and emergency communications across international borders.

GAREC delegates requested that the ITU "continue to support the activities of IARU in facilitating the role of the Amateur Radio Service in emergency communications by fully implementing the provisions of Radio Regulations (RR) Article 25 <http://www.iaru.org/rel030703att2.html> as revised by the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03, Geneva 2003) through the appropriate mechanisms of its Telecommunication Development Bureau and

to support national Administrations in such implementation." The part of Article 25 concerning Emergency Communications states: "Amateur stations may be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties only in case of emergencies or disaster relief. An administration may determine the applicability of this provision to amateur stations under its jurisdiction" (RR 25.3), and "Administrations are encouraged to take the necessary steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in support of disaster relief" (RR 25.9A).

GAREC also wants the ITU to "continue to study the possibilities for the introduction of an International Amateur Radio License facilitating the work of Amateur Radio Service in international assistance and related training activities."

GAREC appealed to all of the IARU Member-Societies, as well as specialized emergency communications groups, to do the following:

* To establish close working relationships between the National IARU Member-Society and independent specialized Amateur Radio emergency communications groups in the respective countries, as well as to cooperate internationally.
* To request their national regulatory authorities implement the modifications to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations, particularly the regulations governing third-party traffic during emergencies and during training for emergency operations.
* To provide training in emergency communications to as many amateurs as possible in their respective countries, with particular emphasis on personal and logistical preparedness, psychological aspects of entering a disaster area, familiarity with the civil protection system in their country, communications techniques of particular value in emergencies and remembering that the skills developed in the amateur service can be of great benefit to disaster relief organizations in maintaining and operating their own telecommunications networks.
* Whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, Web sites, social networking and DX clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to ongoing emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic.
* To use their contacts with national regulatory authorities to encourage the accession to and implementation of the "Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations" <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/emergencytelecoms/doc/tampere/S-CONF-ICET-2001-PDF-M07.pdf>. To date, 37 countries have adopted Tampere <http://www.reliefweb.int/telecoms/tampere/signatories.html>.
* To support the work of the IARU on an international Emergency Communications Handbook and to provide copies of existing agreements with institutional partners in emergency response, as well as copies of

emergency communication guidelines, manuals and checklists developed for national or local use as inputs to this work.
* To work toward the implementation of Memoranda of Understanding established between the IARU and ITU, IFRC, and the United Nations by seeking cooperation with the respective national institutions and organizations in their country.
* To continuously improve their awareness of the mission, vision and values of served agencies.
* To represent themselves as a human and technical resource able and willing to investigate the communication requirements of served agencies, offer recommendations when asked, and facilitate emergency communications when required.

GAREC called on the IARU to encourage its national IARU Member-Societies to "actively support the mission of Amateur Radio as an emergency communications resource." In the official GAREC Statement, delegates also stated that they would like to see the IARU support the following: The implementation of Article 25, the ongoing work toward an International Amateur Radio License, and the work and publication of the IARU Emergency Communications Handbook.

With respect to governments and telecommunication administrations, the conference would like these bodies to encourage joint training activities and exercises of Amateur Radio emergency communications groups and institutional providers of emergency response. Delegates recommend that GAREC conferences should continue to be held in locations throughout the world, maintaining the character of GAREC as an informal meeting among representatives of IARU Member-Societies and of Amateur Radio emergency communications groups, "serving as a forum for the exchange of experience and as an advisory body for the work on emergency communications of the IARU."

==> LOOK FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The October issue of QST -- our second annual Radiosport issue -- is jam-packed with all sorts of things today's Amateur Radio operator needs, with a special focus on Amateur Radio contesting. From product reviews to experiments to public service, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA, takes a look at the highs and lows of the very high frequencies in his article "The Past, Present and Future of VHF Contesting." Scott Straw, KB4KBS/5, proves that everything is indeed bigger in Texas as he recounts his visit in "Multiop, Texas Style." And if you ever thought you needed to be a "big gun" to win wood in a contest, check out "How to Win the ARRL Sweepstakes with 11 QSOs" by John Kanode, N4MM.

In addition to the articles featuring contesting, ARRL Contributing Editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, introduces QST readers to "The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications, 2010 Edition." The 87th edition of this must-have book for radio amateurs has more than 1250 pages; of its

32 chapters, 16 have been completely revised or are altogether new, and another 12 have been updated. The 2010 Handbook features 70 percent new or updated material, including 50 percent new illustrations. The ARRL 2010 Handbook will be available for purchase from the ARRL Online Store beginning October 1.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, looks at VHF contesting, with a special focus on roving, in "This Month in Contesting." With so many amateurs living with deed restrictions, in apartments or dealing with other factors that prevent them from installing outdoor antennas, today's amateur needs to be a bit creative. If you can't operate from home, Kutzko suggests taking your station -- and your contest enjoyment -- on the road.

ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, describes the events and decisions from the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting, and profiles the eight hams on whom the Board bestowed awards for 2008-2009.

If you're in the market for a new rig, be sure to check out October's Product Review: QST Assistant Editor Steve Sant Andrea, AG1YK, gives his take on FlexRadio Systems' FLEX-3000 software defined HF/50 MHz transceiver. In his review, Sant Andrea says "The FLEX-3000 is a compact software defined radio (SDR) in the mid-range price class. It can be used at home or paired with a notebook computer for operation on the go. Although it gives up some features compared to the FLEX-5000A, it doesn't give up much performance."

Of course, there are the usual columns that you expect in the October QST: "Hints & Kinks," "The Doctor Is IN," "How's DX," "Eclectic Technology," "World Above 50 MHz," "Hamspeak" and more. Look for your October issue to arrive soon. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please visit the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> GOVERNOR'S $250,000 GRANT TO AMATEUR RADIO GOES ONLINE AS OREGON HAMS INSTALL NEW WINLINK SYSTEM

This month, Oregon ARES members will complete the state-wide installation of Winlink <http://www.winlink.org/>, thanks to a $250,000 grant from Governor Ted Kulongoski. In 2007, the governor was impressed by the hams' ability to handle emergency communications when severe winter storms wreaked havoc on Oregon's North Coast and flooded the City of Vernonia, knocking out 911 services, Internet and phone service for an extended period of time <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/12/05/100/>. The Oregon Office of Emergency Management said that during the storms, the radio operators were "tireless in their efforts to keep the systems connected." When even state police had difficulty reaching some of their own troops, ham radio worked, setting up networks so emergency officials could communicate and relaying lists of supplies needed in stricken areas.

"I'm going to tell you who the heroes were from the very beginning of this...the ham radio operators," the governor said at the time. "These people just came in and actually provided a tremendous communication link to us." Because of the service rendered by Amateur Radio operators in providing communications support, the governor allocated funds for the installation of a Winlink system to integrate Amateur Radio with the Internet.

The equipment will be installed in the Emergency Operating Center in each of Oregon's 36 counties. Once the monies were distributed, ARES members researched and purchased the equipment that would be needed, formalized and signed contracts between the state, counties and ARES, and allocated space to install the antennas and equipment within each EOC. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (SET) scheduled for October 3-4 <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html>.

"Using Winlink equipment and other amateur equipment already in place at the EOCs, ARES teams will have to quickly create a communications network, in some instances without depending on other infrastructure such as telephones or Internet," said ARRL Oregon Section Public Information Coordinator Steve Sanders, KE7JSS. "Many will not use commercial electric power. Despite these limitations, the ARES teams should not only be able to quickly pass local messages, but also communicate with other regions of the country. The ability to pass information in and out of disaster areas is crucial to the effectiveness of emergency responders."

When Oregon's State Office of Emergency Management was activated on December 3, 2007 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/12/13/101/>, hams over the course of the next four days used Winlink to pass message traffic. "The Winlink system performed perfectly, and the ARES team at the OEM was able to pass approximately 200 messages into and out of the State of Oregon Emergency Operations Center," said Marion County ARES Emergency Coordinator Dean Davis, N7XG. "The only mode of communications for several Oregon counties for the first two days of the storm was the Winlink system."

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Who loves to peer up at the morning Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: No new sunspot activity this week, and no emerging sunspots are visible on the far side of the Sun. Sunspot region 1025 (or 11025) that appeared over August 31 and September 1 faded more than a week ago, and the area in which it appeared has just rotated over the Sun's western limb. Sunspot numbers for September 3-9 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 68.6, 68.4, 68.5, 69.2, 68.8, 68.9 and 69.2 with a mean of 68.8. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 5, 2, 3, 3, 2 and 1 with a mean of 2.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 4, 2, 2, 3, 2 and 3 with a mean of 2.9. The average daily solar flux for this week was up slightly, just 0.7 points, to 68.8. Geomagnetic A indices were quieter, with last week's average daily planetary and mid-latitude A index at 5.7 and 4.1

respectively, while both numbers dropped to 2.9 for this week. The planetary A index is projected to be 5 for today through September 14, then 8 for September 15-18. Solar flux is expected to be 69 for today and tomorrow, then 68 for September 13-19. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet conditions for September 11-12, quiet to unsettled on September 13, 15 and 17 and unsettled on September 14 and 16. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' "On Leigh Hunt's Poem, The Story of Rimini" <http://www.litscape.com/author/John_Keats/On_Leigh_Hunts_Poem_The_Story_of_Rimini.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, look for the ARRL September VHF QSO Party September 12-14. There are two NCCC Sprints this week -- one on September 11 and another on September 12. The WAE DX Contest (SSB), the Arkansas QSO Party and the FISTS Get Your Feet Wet Weekend are September 12-13. The North American Sprint (CW) and the SKCC Weekend Sprint are both September 13. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is September 17. Next week is the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest on September 19-20 (local time). Look for two more NCCC Sprints this week, one each on September 18 and 19. The Feld Hell Sprint is September 19. The South Carolina QSO Party, QRP Afield, the Washington State Salmon Run, the QCWA Fall QSO Party and the Scandinavian Activity Contest (CW) are all September 19-20. The North American Sprint (SSB) is September 20. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the 144 MHz Fall Sprint (local time) are September 21. The SKCC Sprint is September 23. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, September 20, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, October 2, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the

course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* HR 2160 Gains Three More Cosponsors: On September 10, three more Congressmen -- Geoff Davis (R-KY-4), Bill Posey (R-FL-15) and Michael Turner (R-OH-3) -- pledged their support for HR 2160 <http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.R.2160:>, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, bringing the total number of cosponsors to 24, including original sponsor Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18) <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>. HR 2160 is also sponsored by W. Todd Akin (R-MO-2), Michael Arcuri (D-NY-24), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD-6), John Boozman (R-AR-3), Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Bob Filner (D-CA-51), Bart Gordon (D-TN-6), Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY-22), Michael Honda (D-CA-15), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH-15), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-9), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI-11), Charlie Melancon (D-LA-3), Dennis Moore (D-KS-3), Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2), Peter Welch (D-VT), David Wu (D-OR-1) and Don Young (R-AK). Visit the ARRL Web site for information on how to encourage your Congressional representative to sponsor HR 2160 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818>.

* Faster Than a Speeding Pigeon?: In South Africa, an information technology company proved that it was faster for them to transmit data with a carrier pigeon than to send it using Telkom, the country's leading Internet service provider. Internet speed and connectivity in Africa's largest economy are poor due to a shortage of bandwidth and its high cost. Local news agency SAPA reported that on September 9, an 11 month old pigeon named Winston took 68 minutes to fly the 50 miles from Unlimited IT's offices near Pietermaritzburg to the coastal city of Durban with a data card strapped to his leg. Including downloading, the transfer took two hours, six minutes and 57 seconds -- the time it took for only four percent of the data to be transferred using a Telkom line. SAPA said Unlimited IT performed the stunt after becoming frustrated with slow internet transmission times. The company has 11 call centers around the country and regularly sends data to its other branches. Internet speed is expected to improve once a new 11,000 mile underwater fiber optic cable linking southern and East Africa to other networks becomes operational before South Africa hosts the soccer World Cup next year.

* FCC Chairman Announces Enforcement Bureau Chief: Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski announced on September 9 that he has appointed P. Michele Ellison as Chief of the

Enforcement Bureau. Ellison will take the helm of the Enforcement Bureau starting on September 28, 2009. "Protecting and empowering consumers through effective and timely enforcement of the Commission's rules and policies is a top priority for the FCC," said Chairman Genachowski. "Michele is a talented leader with vast communications experience and sound legal judgment, and I look forward to working with her in her new capacity."

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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417. Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-14 19:36:11 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h8m5up$18tm$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1827

My old shack/office/development computer needs to be replaced.

My ham applications are WriteLog, Logger32, microHAM Router, and tQSL (LoTW).

Are there any showstoppers if I buy something with Vista Home Premium installed, and upgrade to Windows 7 in the future. (No, I'm not interested in retrograding to XP).

73, de Hans, K0HB
--
"Just a boy and his Radio"
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Request QSL at ---> http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/K0HB
All valid QSL requests honored with old fashioned paper QSL!
LoTW participant

418. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-14 23:13:36 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <lleta51fchidsi5pj3sh50c8kn976digqn@4ax.com>
Source record: 1828

On Mon, 14 Sep 2009 15:36:11 EDT, Kï¿½HB <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote:

>My old shack/office/development computer needs to be replaced.
>
>My ham applications are WriteLog, Logger32, microHAM Router, and tQSL
>(LoTW).
>
>Are there any showstoppers if I buy something with Vista Home Premium
>installed, and upgrade to Windows 7 in the future. (No, I'm not interes
ted
>in retrograding to XP).
>
>73, de Hans, K0HB

Check with the authors of your ham apps to see if they will upgrade
them to Win 7, and if so, when. It sometimes takes a while for apps
to be upgraded.

All of the reviews I've seen about Windows 7 say that it is much
better that Vista.

Dick, AC7EL

419. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-14 23:53:42 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <7h83brF2g36lcU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1829

"Richard" wrote ...
> Check with the authors of your ham apps to see if they will upgrade
> them to Win 7, and if so, when. It sometimes takes a while for apps
> to be upgraded.

Excellent advice. Never select a comptuer or OS for an app(s)
before confirming that they will operate there. Win7 is available
in pre-release ("RC-1") for the purposes of testing hardware and
software compatibility. My local PC shoppe hands out (official!)
discs out for free. Of course they will stop running next spring,
after which you should have paid for the license if you want to use
it.

Note that the requirements for the newer operating systems (post-
XP) are significantly higher for application authors, so don't be
too surprised if some favorite apps take longer to make the upgrade.
Also not unusual for developers to just throw in the towel at the
sight of the newer requirements. One of the major reasons for the
continued brisk sales of XP ("retrograde" or not :-) MS shot
themselves in the foot with Vista and Win7 is supposed to be better
at running in "backwards compatible" mode.

> All of the reviews I've seen about Windows 7 say that it is much
> better that Vista.

Indeed, sales of XP continue as if Vista never happened.
Microsoft may be finally able to discontinue XP after users
are convinced that Win7 is decent (assuming, hoping...)

420. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-15 06:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1252994400@panix.com>
Source record: 1830
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.10 2009/05/27 12:04:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader
opinions in March of 2009:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt
it permanently if successful.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and
news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc.

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message)
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

Because rec.radio.amateur.moderated is a Usenet newsgroup, there are | implied or derived guidelines for participation that are drawn from the | above articles about overall Usenet culture and tradition. Two of these | implied or derived guidelines are encapsulated in two basic rules that | our moderation team uses to initially determine whether an article is | appropriate for our newsgroup. They are restated explicitly here for | clarification: |

Basic Rule #1: The article must be on-topic for amateur radio. A | rule-of-thumb that our moderation team applies is whether the article | mentions amateur radio, ham radio, some synonym for amateur or ham | radio, some technique or practice of amateur or ham radio including | closely related technical topics such as antennas or portable power, or | regulatory politics that directly affect amateur radio. This | rule-of-thumb is also applied to determine if an article in a thread has | drifted too far off-topic. For example, articles that have drifted into | general rants or monologues will probably be returned with a polite | request to rewrite to include a reasonable amateur radio connection or | angle. |

Basic Rule #2: The article must not have excessive spelling, grammar, or | logical argument errors affecting readability and understandability. | The moderation team understands that clear, understandable, technical or | expository writing is a skill that can only be perfected through a | lifetime of focused training and practice. Because the moderation team | does not want to hold submitters to a standard higher than what it can | achieve itself, nor disrupt the newsgroup and discourage submitters by | playing spelling or grammar police, it will only return for rewrite any | article that cannot be reasonably understood by multiple moderators. |

If it is necessary to return any article for a rewrite because the | moderators have determined that it does not meet Basic Rule #1 or #2, | please accept this constructive feedback in the manner in which it is | intended. The moderation team offers its assistance to help rewrite any | submitted article into a form that preserves its original intent and | meaning, but is also on-topic, as well as readable and understandable by | others. |

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which

itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such

fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The

moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management Board:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

421. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-15 15:08:32 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <hVNrm.2525$tl3.1116@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1831

"Richard Crowley" <rcrowley@xp7rt.net> wrote in message
news:7h83brF2g36lcU1@mid.individual.net...
> "Richard" wrote ...
> > Check with the authors of your ham apps to see if they will upgrade
> > them to Win 7, and if so, when. It sometimes takes a while for apps
> > to be upgraded.
>
> Excellent advice. Never select a comptuer or OS for an app(s)
> before confirming that they will operate there. Win7 is available
> in pre-release ("RC-1") for the purposes of testing hardware and
> software compatibility. My local PC shoppe hands out (official!)
> discs out for free. Of course they will stop running next spring,
> after which you should have paid for the license if you want to use
> it.
>
> Note that the requirements for the newer operating systems (post-
> XP) are significantly higher for application authors, so don't be
> too surprised if some favorite apps take longer to make the upgrade.
> Also not unusual for developers to just throw in the towel at the
> sight of the newer requirements. One of the major reasons for the
> continued brisk sales of XP ("retrograde" or not :-) MS shot
> themselves in the foot with Vista and Win7 is supposed to be better
> at running in "backwards compatible" mode.
>
> > All of the reviews I've seen about Windows 7 say that it is much
> > better that Vista.
>
> Indeed, sales of XP continue as if Vista never happened.
> Microsoft may be finally able to discontinue XP after users
> are convinced that Win7 is decent (assuming, hoping...)
>
>
I have a brisk business downgrading to XP just because of its speed,
stability and backward compatibility.

422. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1675 - September 18 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-18 07:26:15 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090918002319.02d76ad8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1832
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1675 - September 18 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1675 with a release date of Friday, September 18, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A Dutch telecommunications regulator may have created a confrontation between ham radio in space and ham radio on the ground. We have the details. Also, a leader in emergency communications says the FCC appears open to suggestions on how to solve the problem of hams working for served agencies to keep their nets on the air, Oregon hams use grant monies to establish a state wide Winlink communications system and NOAA says that Solar Cycle 24 may never get above 90. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1675 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESTRUCTURING: DUTCH GOVERNMENT TRYING TO FORCE D-STAR REPEATERS INTO HAM SATELLITE BAND

A confrontation between amateur satellite users and terrestrial users of D-Star repeaters appears to be looming on the other side of the Atlantic. This because one European telecommunications regulator has decided to make it happen. Norm Seeley, KI7UP, is here with the details:

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A confrontation between amateur satellite users and terrestrial users of D-Star repeaters appears to be looming on the European horizon. This, because the telecommunications regulator in the Netherlands is creating a war-like scenario between the two ham radio interests so that it can proceed with one of its pet technological projects.

Information provided to Amsat-North America indicates what the ham radio space agency calls a growing threat to frequencies allocated and used by the Amateur Satellite Service. This is because the Dutch government has decided to reallocate 439.500 MHz and upward to the Differential Global Positioning Service. And to accomplish this goal it has decided to move the output frequency subband of that nations terrestrial D-Star repeaters from 439 to 440 MHz down to 437 to 438 MHz. This re-allocation would place digital repeater signals right in the downlink band of the Amateur Satellite Service.

Nor are Dutch telecommunications regulators listening to anyone's complaints about the proposed reallocation. Protests from Dutch amateur radio operators, amateur clubs and even telecommunications regulators in nearby countries are falling on what amounts to deaf bureaucratic ears. The regulator is still planning on this spectrum re-allocation to favor Differential G-P-S.

As we go to air Dutch telecommunications regulator has halted amateur D-Star repeater licensing until the frequency shift can be made. Impact on European satellite operations would be immediate. A ripple effect on world wide ham radio satellite communications would at least in theory be inevitable. So might be formal complaints to the International Telecommunications Union from spectrum regulators in neighboring nations.

>From Scottsdale, Arizona, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Even more ominous is the potential for the door to be opened for future infringement on satellite operations in other countries. This is because in many parts of the world portions of the 70cm band is allocated ham radio operators as secondary users. (Amsat-NA, PE1HZG, Southgate)

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EMCOMM VS PECUNIARY INTEREST: WB6NOA REPORTS THE FALLOUT

Ham radio educator and emergency communications expert Gordon West, WB6NOA, is weighing in on the growing controversy that is pitting proponents of providing ham radio communications while on the job versus the FCC position that any communications by any ham who is at work, off work, or even on a lunch break and being paid is illegal. The problem says West is that the FCC deems as not legal is for paid personnel conducting a ham radio net. This he says is driving away all forms of amateur radio volunteers from public service and he has thrown his political weight in with those who are calling for the FCC to continue to work with the ham community as the two work together to find a solution. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has more:

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According to Gordon West, WB6NOA, the sky is literally beginning to fall. And its falling in on amateur radio participation in emergency communications activities.

In an e-mail to Amateur Radio Newsline, West notes that in recent days he has heard directly from a growing number of hams who were associated with emergency service operations. Hams who are simply walking away from the hobby and from emergency communications work within it. To quote WB6NOA:

"Today , I had calls from a Red Cross chapter indicating they may no longer participate or encourage American Red Cross ham radio training nets . A Red Cross staff member who is a ham, says he is out .

"Another call from a fire department ham who just formed a ham radio disaster communications team. He says he is over and out working with ham volunteers over the air .

"Ans a CERT City coordinator, also a ham, has called it quits for over the air disaster drills on 2 meter simplex."

West notes that as with emergency communicators with ARES and RACES, there is usually a ham or two on staff of various agencies that other ham volunteers work with on the air. He says that all radio amateurs fully understand the rules on pecuniary interest, but without hams embedded in agency staffs who operate in drills and disaster preparation, that ham radio has no one to serve.

In addition to being an acclaimed amateur radio instructor, Gordon West, WB6NOA, is an ARRL District Emergency Coordinator. He is also active with his Red Cross chapter and runs a daily preparedness net on 40 meters. And now he is asking the FCC for its opinion on how volunteers can best work with fellow hams who may be on staff with their local agency and who are wanting to legally run nets for disaster relief training and preparedness.

West adds that he is hoping that the FCC rules enforcer Laura Smith will continue to weigh the many comments from served agencies on this important subject. He points out that both Smith and FCC rules man Bill Cross, W3TN, responded to his initial e-mail within minutes of it being sent. He says that to him this is an indication that the regulatory agency's door is open for constructive comments.

WB6NOA ends by offering his own expertise to the FCC in crafting a solution to the current dilemma. He also quotes section 97.1(a) of the Commissions own rules. A rule which not only defines the reason ham radio exists but recognizes and specifically spells out the value of the amateur service to the public. This, as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the Amateur Radio Newsline studio in Los Angeles.

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Gordon West says that this bru-ha-ha has just undone all that hams have been trying to do to find a purpose, with their local County or City emergency services. He adds that this controversy has likely set back the cause of ham radio emergency preparedness, growth, and cooperation between volunteers and the various agencies that they serve. (ARNewsline(tm))

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PUBLIC SERVICE: SOUTH AFRICAN HAMNET ASSISTS THE WALK AGAINST CRIME

Ham radio recently played a part in a South African Walk Against Crime. The event was organized by Edenvale SAPS and Mumba Security in conjunction with the amateur radio group Hamnet.

ZR6DAN, ZU6TAN, and ZS6SKY, handled all the communications at the event. ZS6ZS, was in contact with them from a base station for back up communications in the event it was needed. The event is organized to test the readiness of the members and the ability to deploy and activate mobile and field stations while under pressure. This, in preparation for future events. (Southgate)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the DeKalb City ARES net on the WA9CJN repeater serving DeKalb, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: GRANT MONEY BRINGS WINLINK SYSTEM TO OREGON

A follow up to the story on a grant of $250,000 made a year and a half ago to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service in Oregon by Governor Ted Kulongoski. As a result, Oregon ARES members are on the verge of completing the state-wide installation of a Winlink ham radio emergency messaging system.

According to the ARRL, the story goes back to 2007. That's when governor Kulongoski impressed by the ability of radio amateurs to handle emergency communications when severe winter storms wreaked havoc on Oregon's North Coast. The city of Vernonia was flooded. The 911 emergency response services along with the Internet and phone service was inoperable for an extended period of time.

Because of the service rendered by Amateur Radio operators in providing communications support, the governor allocated funds for the installation of a ham radio digital communications system. One that would integrate Amateur Radio with the Internet.

Winlink was chosen over any other digital messaging system because of its performance during the severe weather two years ago. In fact it was Winlink that was the only mode of communications for several Oregon counties for the first two days of the storm. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test scheduled for October 3rd and 4th. (ARRL)

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PUBLIC SERVICE: HAMS NEEDED FOR OREGON'S EAGLE CAP EXTREME DOG RACE

Still in Oregon, that sates Eagle Cap Extreme Sled Dog Race in need of ham radio volunteers from January 13th to the 16th 2010. This, to provide communications support for the event.

About 40 to 50 radio amateurs will be needed to provide checkpoint and course safety coverage using 2 meters and a dedicated repeater for the event. The race begins at Wallowa State Park and ends at the Ferguson Ski Area and is a qualifying event for both the Alaskan Iditarod and Canadian Yukon Quest events.

Hams who enjoy performing public service work outdoors in the winter should contact Clyde Raymer, Jr., KL0CW, by e-mail to president (at) eaglecapextreme (dot) com. More on the race and the part played by volunteer radio amateurs is on-line at www.eaglecapextreme.com/amateurradio.php (Via E-Mail)

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RESCUE RADIO: SOME SOCAL REPEATER SITES MAY NOT BE REACHABLE THIS WINTER

Hams with repeaters atop several Southern California hilltops may not be able to reach them this winter if repairs are needed. This, the result of the aftermath of a massive wildfire which is still only 85 percent contained.

Michael Mcintyre is a District Ranger who oversees the Angeles National Forest. In a letter to all permit holders Mcintyre writes that as a result of the Station Fire much of the District has been burned with complete mountain sides reduced to ash and charred remains of trees. The Angeles National Forest remains closed south and east of California State Route 14 and Route 138 until further notice.

Mcintyre says that individuals or organizations holding special uses permits for sanctioned activities within the forest are exempt from this closure. However, weather forecasters predict that Southern California will receive heavy rain this fall. This he says may result in landslides, flooding, and road washouts. Numerous roads would be closed and many communication systems and utilities across the forest might be non operational.

Mcintyre says that now is the time for lessees to organize carpools by coordinating tenant needs and planning helicopter access for when access roads are washed out. He adds that it is prudent to make back up plans with your neighbors to ensure your long term access where sanctioned activities are necessary.

While Mcintyre does not address the needs of ham radio repeater owners, its well known that a good number of wide coverage systems operate from such hilltops as Mt. Disappointment, Mt. Lukens and of coarse Mt. Wilson. And if the prediction of heavy rain later this year is correct, if a repeater goes off the air due to some failure, it may have to stay off unless its owner has the money to pay for a chopper ride up to the site. (CGC)

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RADIO VANDALISM: TWO MORE RADIO TOWERS COME DOWN

Two more broadcast radio towers have been felled. Thais, since radicals in the Pacific Northwest toppled two towers owned by KRKO in Everett Washington as we reported last week.

The first involves WEAB in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Radio World says that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is trying to find out who cut the guy wires of the stations 350-foot tower causing it to fall to the ground. The Clear Channel tower is one of five in the same location of Whitehall Township. Authorities as saying no one was injured and no other property was damaged in the incident. The station operates at 790 kHz, went on the air in 1949. Its on the air with its remaining towers.

There's no mystery to why the 400 foot tower for of WTJV AM in Deland, Florida fell. A local newspaper says that truck full of high school students snagged one of the guy wires on its bumper after a high school football game. No one was injured, even though the tower and a power line fell. The station operate on 1490 kHz serves the Daytona Beach area. (RW, others)

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ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCASTER DINGED $10000

The FCC has ordered Texas resident Radhames Severino to pay a $10,000 fine. This for allegedly operating of an unlicensed radio transmitter on the frequency 101.5 MHz in the Houston area. Newsline's Bruce, Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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In its order affirming the forfeiture the FCC noted that on May 26th the Commission's Houston Resident Agent Office of the Enforcement Bureau had issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture in the amount of $10,000 to Severino for the alleged offense. To date, Severino has not filed a response to the order.

This case dates back to On October 23 and 25, 2006. That's when the FCC responded to a complaint about an unlicensed radio station in the Houston area. An agent from the Commission's Houston Office T-hunted the signal on 101.5 MHz to a building in the Houston area. On October 31, 2006, an agent from the Houston Office inspected the radio station located in suites K-M of the building, which was labeled as the home of the Iglesia Misionera Evangelistica Elohim church. The agent determined that Severino leased these suites, was responsible for the station, and was the pastor for the church.

On November 7, 2006, the Houston Office sent a formal Notice of Unlicensed Operation to Severino at his residence. The notice warned him that operation of an unlicensed radio station violated Section 301 of the Act and directed him to cease all unlicensed operations

immediately. The letter also outlined the potential penalties for such a violation,.

But the FCC warning to Severino apparently went unheeded. On January 30, March 12, and October 15, 2008, agents from the Houston Office, again T-hunted the signal on 101.5 MHz to Severino leased suites. This in turn lead to the issuance of a $10,000 Notice of Apparent Liability to Severino to which he never responded. As a result, Severino was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file an appeal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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This 30 day period has no passed but the FCC has not said if the fine was paid or is still outstanding. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC ISSUES $19000 EAS VIOLATION FINE

The Federal Communications Commission fined Opp Educational Broadcasting Foundation, licensee of WJIF FM in Alabama, a $19,000. This, for violations of the rules governing a stations responsibility to the community it serves in time of emergency under the Emergency Alert or EAS system. The alleged violations include failing to maintain operable E-A-S equipment, not conducting required EAS tests and not providing certain information to Enforcement Bureau questions.

This case goes back to 2008 when the FCC responded to a complaint alleging WJIF did not take part in E-A-S drills and had never transmitted an EAS test. In its investigation the FCC specifically asked the station to provide copies of station E-A-S procedures and logs recording EAS test transmissions. The FCC followed up in March and warned WJIF that not responding appropriately could lead to enforcement action.

In its December 2008 response, the WJIF management did not directly answer the questions, except to state in general terms that WJIF had participated in EAS in the past. However it also noted that EAS gear was broken and the station intended to fix it as soon as possible. (FCC)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: NSC SAYS OPERATING TWO WAY MOBILE IS SAFE

The National Safety Council says that operating mobile does not appear to increase the risk of having an accident.

In response to a request from the ARRL, National Safety Council President Janet Froetscher wrote back that the group has no evidence that using two-way radios while driving poses significant crash risks. She said that until such time as compelling, peer-reviewed scientific research is presented that denotes significant risks associated with the use of amateur radios, two-way radios or other communication devices that her organization does not support legislative bans or prohibition on their use.

The ARRL had written to the National Safety Council out of concern over the numerous state and city laws being enacted to ban all but hands free cellphone and stop all texting by the general public. The fear has been that some of these laws are so broadly worded that they might be interpreted by law enforcement or courts as a ban on all forms of vehicular communications.

While Froetscher comments do not carry the power of law, they will be an essential tool that hams can use to obtain exclusions from proposed mobile communications bans by cities or states. This is because the National Safety Council's findings carry a lot of weight with lawmakers at all levels of government. (ARRL)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: ELLISON NAMED CHIEF OF FCC ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

New FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski has announced the appointment of P. Michele Ellison as Chief of the Enforcement Bureau effective September 28th. Ellison is currently Deputy General Counsel of the Enforcement Bureau. According to an FCC press release she most recently served as Acting General Counsel of the FCC. Her appointment will likely have little impact on rules enforcement in amateur radio which was recently handed over to Laura Smith. (FCC)

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WHATS IN A NAME: CAD AND ASTATIC REBRAND AS CAD AUDIO

Some say what's in a name? A lot if you are CAD Professional Microphones and Astatic Commercial Audio Products which are re-branding as C-A-D Audio.

While the name CAD Professional Microphones may not be one familiar to hams, the Astatic brand has its roots in amateur radio. The company was established in 1931 by two radio engineers dedicated to the development of a static-free, or "anti static," microphone.

Over the years the company evolved into Astatic Commercial Audio products. Perhaps its most famous Astatic branded product was the lollypop looking D-104 crystal microphone that was considered the gold standard for two way radio in the 1950', 60's and through the mid-1970's. That D-104 was discontinued from production about a decade ago. The name change for the Solon, Ohio, company became effective on September 1st. (Via E-Mail)

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WHATS IN A NAME: RAC SAYS HDBOC NOW THE LF/MF/HFBPC

And another what's in a name? How about the Board of Directors of Radio Amateurs of Canada approving a motion to change the name of its High Frequency or HF Band Planning Committee to the Low Frequency, Medium Frequency and High Frequency Band Planning Committee.

Radio Amateurs of Canada says that the change name better reflects the range of frequencies that the committee is responsible for. Jim Fisher, VE1JF, who is the Committee Chair indicates that the work the committee members are doing will not change much as they were already including those bands in their ongoing reviews.

And thankfully, Radio Amateurs of Canada has come up with an acronym for the newly renamed group. They call it the LF/MF/HFBPC. (RAC)

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HAM BUSINESS: RF CONCEPTS LLC BUYS ALPHA RADIO PRODUCTS

RF Concepts, LLC, has acquired the assets of Alpha Radio Products and will manufacture the world famous amplifiers and other Alpha Radio products. Michael Seedman, AA6DY, is the Chairman RFConcepts, LLC. He says that the Alpha 9500 and 8410 amplifiers, the Model 2100 Dummy Load/Wattmeter combo and line of 4500 Wattmeters will continue to be manufactured and available. Also the new company will honor existing customer commitments, including warranties, customer and technical support, and repairs. It will also keep an extensive parts inventories to support the more than 10,000 Alpha amplifiers in the market. (RFConcepts, LLC)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: TAPR-ARRL DCC SEPT 25 - 27 IN CHICAGO

The joint ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference will be held on September 25th to the 27th, The event takes place in the northwest suburbs of Chicago at the Elk Grove Village Holiday Inn near O'Hare airport with a free hotel shuttle bus.

The Digital Communications Conference features 2 full days of Technical forums that includes such topics as Digital Amateur Television, the use of digital Communications at the Marine Corps Marathon and the recently reported Universal Ham Radio Text Messaging initiative as proposed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR.

If you can't be there in person you can follow activities on Twitter at twitter dot org slash taprdigital. More on the conference is on line at www.tapr.org. (WB9QZB)

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FUTURE PROPAGATION: NOAA PREDICTS A SOLAR MAX OF ONLY 90

The U.S. Dept. of Commerce Space Weather Prediction Center has issued a prediction that the next Solar maximum will take place in May 2013 with a predicted sunspot count of just 90. This prediction follows on from other gloomy forecasts from various sources.

However, it must be remembered that scientists knows next to nothing about the suns behavior. Data from solar observing satellites goes back barely 3 decades and visual recordings of sunspot data only extends over a few centuries. Either way, this latest prediction can be seen at the website found at www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/weekly/Predict.txt (NOAA)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: 4 MICROSATS TO LAUNCH SEPT 23

Turning to ham radio in space, the ISIS Launch Services weblog says a l date of September 23rd is currently likely for the Indian PSLV-C14 launcher that will carry 4 Amateur Radio CubeSats into orbit. These tiny birds include SwissCube, BeeSat and two others. More information is at blog.isilaunch.com. (Southgate)

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ON THE AIR: COMMEMORATING PIERRE CURIE

On the air, keep an ear open for the fascinating call TM150RPC. Its on the air to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of physician and Nobel Prize laureate Pierre Curie.

For those of you not aware, Pierre Curie was a French physicist, a pioneer in crystallography, magnetism, piezoelectricity and radioactivity. In 1903 he received the Nobel Prize in Physics with his wife, Maria Skï¿½odowska-Curie, and Henri Becquerel, in recognition of the extraordinary services they have rendered by their joint researches on the radiation phenomena discovered by Becquerel. That discovery is more commonly known as the X-Ray.

You can listen out for TM150RP-C on all bands and modes. QSL's go via F5KAZ. (OPDX)

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DX

In D-X, word that Members of the Russian Robinson Club and the R-Quad Antenna Company have put together a DXpedition project to activate the rarest Islands on the Air references in Vietnam. Operators mentioned

are RA3NAN, RK3FA, RZ3EM and UA6BGB. They will be in Vietnam between September 24th and October 2nd. For more details and updates, please visit xv6rrc.com.

And lastly, M0OVL will be on the air slash P on September 25th and 26th from Inner Farne, He is restricted to just 4 hours of operations each day between 1000 and 1400UTC and is also dependent on weather conditions. More information and QSL routing is at www dot m-zero-o-v-l dot co dot uk.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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423. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 37 (Friday, September 18, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-18 17:07:41 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090918164212.2265A320FE@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1833
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 37
September 18, 2009
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* + Smithsonian Curator to Speak at AMSAT-NA Banquet
* ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL/TAPR Digital Communication Conference Next Weekend
+ Don't Forget to Send Your /140 QSLs!
Alpha Radio Products Now RF Concepts
South African Amateur Radio Payload Reaches Orbit

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

***Starting September 24, The ARRL Letter will be distributed and posted
***to the ARRL Web site on Thursdays (moving from Fridays).

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==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>

==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> CHANGES IN STORE FOR THE ARRL LETTER

After asking for feedback from ARRL Letter subscribers and reviewing
surveys sent to ARRL members, we are changing the way you receive The
ARRL Letter. Starting in two weeks -- October 1 -- The ARRL Letter will
be available to subscribers in an HTML formatted version. Of course,
those members who do not wish to receive the HTML version can click on a
link to view the Letter on the ARRL Web site. In addition, The ARRL
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Letter will be distributed on Thursdays beginning September 24.

According to ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, this new format will allow for more graphics and pictures, as well as occasional articles that feature the technical side of Amateur Radio. We will also be running portions of popular QST features, such as "The Doctor Is IN" and "Hints & Kinks."

"I am very excited about presenting The ARRL Letter in a completely new format," Keane said. "Not only will we be able to add features such as pictures and video, but by offering the Letter in HTML, readers will be able to navigate directly to those stories they are most interested in. The ARRL already offers two other newsletters -- The ARRL Contest Update and The ARRL ARES E-Letter -- in an HTML version. We have received a lot of positive feedback on these two newsletters."

The ARRL Letter first appeared in 1981 as a print publication, available by subscription from the League. In 1991 -- following the technology of the day -- it moved from being a print publication to being published electronically and sent via e-mail as a free service to ARRL members. "Now, once again, we at the ARRL are following technology's path and publishing The ARRL Letter in a new way, moving from plain text to a graphically pleasing interface," Keane explained.

We think you will enjoy this new format, and we welcome your comments. Tell us what you like -- and don't like -- by sending an e-mail to Keane <k1sfa@arrl.org>, with "ARRL Letter Feedback" in the subject line.

==> NEW PRODUCT REVIEW TESTS TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER QST

When you peruse the October issue of QST, you may notice a few extra lines in the Product Review data. "Here at the ARRL Lab, we strive to make our test procedures relevant to current technology and to new features common on today's transceivers," said ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM. "We continue to research ways to improve our testing and to develop new tests that will benefit our members. I hope you will find these new measurements useful in evaluating and comparing transceivers."

* Receiver Sensitivity (MDS) at 137 and 505 kHz
Several countries now give amateurs permission to operate at and around 137 and 505 kHz. In the US, there is activity on 495 to 510 kHz by more than 20 stations around the country operating under the ARRL sponsored WD2XSH experimental license. In addition, there are other Part 15 experimental licensees operating in this range. The WD2XSH stations are on the air regularly, gathering propagation data. They are always looking for signal reports.

Allison said that with many of today's transceivers and a suitable antenna, you can listen for these experimental stations and submit reception reports via the Web site: "The new Product Review tests will help identify transceivers suitable for use on these frequencies. With equipment built over the last 25 years ago or so, I've noticed a wide

variety of available sensitivity, from terrible to quite good. Many receivers tune to 137 and 505 kHz; not all are proficient at receiving signals there. For you 'lowfers,' this measurement is for you."

* Spectral Sensitivity
Spectral sensitivity is the weakest signal that can be "seen" on a visual display of spectrum above and below the operating frequency. Often called a spectrum scope or panadapter, this feature is included on many mid-range and high-end transceivers. "This data represents the level, in dBm, at which the operator can see a signal poke up out of the display noise floor," Allison explained. "Although the measurement is somewhat subjective, it works out to be about 3 dB above the noise floor at the bottom of the display when the scope is adjusted to show 100 kHz of spectrum. With software-defined receivers (SDRs), such as the FLEX-3000, the sample rate is set to the highest setting."

* Audio Output THD at 1 V RMS
Allison said that one of the ARRL Technical Advisors posed the question, "Who ever listens to their receiver at full volume?" Allison explained that audio output power and THD (total harmonic distortion) at the specified load impedances as specified by the manufacturer have been tested and reported. "Generally, the specification is at or near the maximum audio output the receiver is capable of," he said. "If severe hearing loss isn't an issue, we normally listen with the volume control set to around the 9 o'clock to 11 o'clock position on most transceivers and not with the control cranked to maximum."

Allison explained that distortion at normal listening levels is an important factor, especially when you are listening for an extended period of time: "High levels of distortion can make signals more difficult to understand and add to fatigue. We'll continue to measure and report how audio output power and THD compare to manufacturers' specifications, but we have added a new test intended to show distortion at more typical volume levels."

After testing several radios for comfort, Allison picked 1 V RMS as an output level for the new test. "It's an easy figure to remember," he said. "We will now also report THD at this level. Note that this test will appear with the next transceiver reviewed because the FLEX-3000 has only a low-level audio output and is dependent on external, user-supplied devices to amplify the audio to normal listening levels."

Look for these new tests beginning with October's QST Product Review featuring the FLEX-3000.

==> NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE GEORGE HART DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At its July 2009 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors established the George Hart Distinguished Service Award to be given to an ARRL member whose service to the League's Field Organization is of the most exemplary nature. The Distinguished Service Award is named in honor of

George Hart, W1NJM, long-time Communications Manager at ARRL Headquarters and chief developer of the National Traffic System (NTS) <http://www.emergency-radio.org/what_nts.pdf>. Upon learning that the ARRL Board of Directors had established this award named after him, Hart called his namesake award "a great honor."

Selection criteria include:
* Operating record with the National Traffic System; or
* Participation within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES); or
* Station appointments and/or leadership positions held within the ARRL Field Organization.

Nominations for the George Hart Distinguished Service Award shall be accepted from anyone and shall be submitted to the Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager at ARRL HQ by November 1. Nominations should document as thoroughly as possible the nominee's lifetime activities and achievements within the Field Organization. It is expected that nominated candidates will have 15 or more years of distinguished service. The Programs and Services Committee will serve as the Review Committee, with the Board of Directors making the final determination at its Annual Meeting in January. Recipients will be given an engraved plaque and cover letter and will be profiled in QST.

Nominations for the George Hart Distinguished Service Award, including any related supporting material and letters of recommendation, may be e-mailed to ARRL Headquarters to the attention of ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N <nn1n@arrl.org>, or to ARRL Field and Public Service Team Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X <wv1x@arrl.org>. Nominations and supporting materials must be received no later than November 1, 2009 to be considered.

==> PART 2 OF THE 10 GHZ AND UP CONTEST IS THIS WEEKEND

This weekend brings the second leg of the 2009 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-GHz.html>. If you enjoy the technical side of Amateur Radio and being on the cutting edge, this weekend gives you a perfect chance to explore the microwave portion of the radio spectrum!
The contest period starts at 6 AM (local time) Saturday, running until midnight (local time) Sunday. According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, QSO points are awarded based on the distance of a QSO. "Operating from several locations during the contest period is not only allowed, it's even encouraged," he said. "Most people use SSB, although some CW is used, too. Power levels are relatively low compared to HF; most stations run several hundred milliwatts. A station running a few watts is considered a 'Big Gun.' Antennas are usually dishes, like those used for receiving satellite TV."

Kutzko explained that many QSOs are completed on the microwave bands by bouncing signals off of other objects, such as mountains, buildings and even raindrops! You can also get lucky and catch a good tropospheric opening, he said, explaining that in the 2007 contest, a ham on the West

Coast made a QSO of 907.2 miles on 10 GHz between his location in California and Mexico.

"If you have a person in your area that is interested in the microwave bands, ask if you can tag along and observe," Kutzko advised. "If you live in an area that has a microwave club -- such as the North Texas Microwave Society, the North East Weak Signal Group, the Mt Airy VHF Club and several others -- find out what their members are doing for the contest. Elmering is a big part of the microwave groups, and they are only too happy to introduce you to their fun."

Logs for the 2009 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest can be e-mailed <10GHz@arrl.org>. Paper logs should be sent to ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. All logs must be postmarked no later than 2359 UTC Tuesday, October 20.

==> SMITHSONIAN CURATOR TO SPEAK AT AMSAT-NA BANQUET

Dr Martin Collins, a curator in the Space History Division at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington <http://www.nasm.si.edu/>, will be the featured speaker at the AMSAT-NA Symposium banquet on Saturday, October 10, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel at Baltimore-Washington International Airport <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/2009/index.php>. The title of his presentation will be "Making the Space Age: The First 50 Years."

Dr Collins curates the National Air and Space Museum's civilian applications satellites collection that includes weather, remote sensing and communications satellites and related technologies. He has contributed to a series of Museum exhibits and was primary author of the exhibition catalog "Space Race: The US-USSR Competition to Reach the Moon" <http://www.amazon.com/Space-Race-U-S-U-S-S-R-Competition-Reach/dp/0764909053>.

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Sputnik, he was editor of the book "After Sputnik: 50 Years of the Space Age" <http://www.amazon.com/After-Sputnik-Years-Space-Age/dp/0060897813> that included text and photos on the history of Project OSCAR. He was instrumental in arranging the display of OSCAR 1 at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center, along with the Naval Academy's PCSat Amateur Radio satellite. He also arranged the acquisition of AMSAT's MicroSat mechanical test model, just in time for AMSAT's 35th Anniversary Annual Meeting.

The Saturday evening banquet is one of the highlights of this year's 40th anniversary symposium, October 9-11 <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/symposium/2009/index.php>.

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters,

such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplarian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Gave temperate sweets to that well-wooing Sun" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot numbers for September 10 through 16 were 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0 and 0 with a mean of 0. The 10.7 cm flux was 69.3, 69.3, 69, 69.1, 69, 69.2 and 68.8 with a mean of 69.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 2, 4, 4, 6, 5, 5 and 6 with a mean of 4.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 2, 2, 1, 4, 4, 4 and 5 with a mean of 3.1. Thursday's prediction shows solar flux values at 70 beginning tomorrow, September 19, and continuing through September 24, then rising to 72 September 25-28. We haven't reported a weekly solar flux average above 70 in this bulletin since May 19, and prior to that there were only four more weeks above 70 in 2009. These predictions are from NOAA and the US Air Force, who also predict a planetary A index of 8 for September 18, and only 5 from September 19 to more than a month after. Geophysical Institute Prague also predicts nothing but quiet geomagnetic conditions for September 18-24.. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' "Endymion" <http://www.bartleby.com/126/32.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: This week, the ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest is September 19-20 (local time). Look for two NCCC Sprints this week, one each on September 18 and 19. The Feld Hell Sprint is September 19. The South Carolina QSO Party, QRP Afield, the Washington State Salmon Run, the QCWA Fall QSO Party and the Scandinavian Activity Contest (CW) are all September 19-20. The North American Sprint (SSB) is September 20. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest and the 144 MHz Fall Sprint (local time) are September 21. The SKCC Sprint is September 23. Next week, look for another NCCC Sprint on September 25. The Texas QSO Party, the CQ

Worldwide DX Contest (RTTY) and Scandinavian Activity Contest (SSB) are all September 26-27. QRP Homebrewer Sprint is September 28. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL/TAPR Digital Communication Conference Next Weekend: ARRL and the Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Group (TAPR) <http://www.tapr.org/> will jointly host the 28th Annual Digital Communications Conference (DCC) September 25-27 in Chicago <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>. The DCC has something for everyone from those new to digital modes to those experienced with digital communications including technical and introductory forums. According to DCC Co-host Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, one of the highlights of this year's DCC will be Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, presenting "Universal Ham Radio Text Messaging." The Saturday night banquet speaker will be Bill Brown, WB8ELK, a pioneer in flying balloons with payloads including Amateur Radio digital communication technologies. Brown is the publisher and editor of Amateur Television Quarterly magazine. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, will be on hand to discuss the upcoming World Radiocommunications Conference in his talk "WRC-12 Agenda Item 1.19: Shaping the International Regulatory Framework for Software Defined and Cognitive Radio Systems." QEX Editor Larry Wolfgang, WR1B <http://www.arrl.org/qex>, and ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG, will also be in attendance. The 2009 DCC forum and speaker schedule is available online <http://www.tapr.org/pdf/DCC_2009_Schedule_Preliminary2009-09-16.pdf>.

TAPR provides leadership and resources to radio amateurs for the purpose of advancing the radio art and is a research and development oriented group offering kits, assembled products and publications related to the intersection of Amateur Radio and digital technology.

* Don't Forget to Send Your /140 QSLs!: For seven days -- September 2-9 -- the ARRL celebrated the 140th anniversary of the birth of Hiram Percy Maxim, the League's co-founder and first president <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/08/17/11025/?nc=1>. The highlight of the week-long celebration was an on-the-air Special Event where eligible amateurs could add /140 to their call signs, and amateurs who had more than 25 QSOs (with endorsements in increments of 25, up to 100) with /140 stations would receive an attractive award certificate. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, reports that so far, more than 200 applications for the certificate have been received, with more arriving at ARRL HQ every day. "Here at W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, we signed more than 700 QSOs with the /140 Special Event suffix," Carcia said. "This is a great way to remember 'The Old Man,' and I know that if he were alive today, he would have been on the air, enjoying all that Amateur Radio has to offer today's ham." It's not too late to apply for your award certificate -- all requests must be postmarked by October 9, 2009. Paper logs, along with a $5 fee, should be sent to HPM/140 Celebration, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

* Alpha Radio Products Now RF Concepts: On September 15, Michael Seedman, AA6DY, announced that his company, RF Concepts <http://www.rfconcepts.com/>, had purchased Boulder, Colorado-based Alpha Radio Products <http://www.alpharadioproducts.com/>. Seedman explained in a press release <http://www.rfconcepts.com/dear_alpha_customers.asp> that when he contacted Alpha to purchase a new amplifier, he was "disappointed to learn that I would not receive it for months." He was told that as each amplifier is made by hand, there was not enough shelf inventory to send a new one right away. Working with Alpha Products president Molly Hardman, W0MOM, "we created a way to capitalize the company in order to put amplifiers in inventory for immediate availability. Customers will no longer have to wait weeks or months to add an Alpha product to their station." Seedman said that RF Concepts "will focus on shipping our backlog of Alpha amplifiers and building sufficient product to ship from stock. We will honor our existing customer commitments -- including warranties, customer and technical support and repairs -- and keep our extensive parts inventories to support the more than 10,000 Alpha amplifiers in the market." Hardman will be staying on as Vice President of Sales for RF Concepts.

* South African Amateur Radio Payload Reaches Orbit: After several delays, South Africa's SumbandilaSat satellite <http://www.amsatsa.org.za/SZASAT.htm> finally blasted to orbit aboard a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on September 16 <http://www.russianspaceweb.com/baikonur.html>. The main payload is a multi-spectral imager, but the satellite also carries an Amateur Radio

component consisting of a 2 meter/70 cm FM repeater. After SumbandilaSat is fully commissioned, the repeater will be activated with an uplink at 145.880 MHz and a downlink at 435.350 MHz; there will also be a voice beacon at 435.300 MHz. The transponder mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink frequency. The CTCSS tone frequencies have yet to be announced. SumbandilaSat was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and was built at SunSpace <http://www.sunspace.co.za/> in cooperation with the Stellenbosch University <http://www.sun.ac.za/>. In addition to the SA-AMSAT amateur module, the satellite carries Stellenbosch University's radiation experiment and software defined radio (SDR) project, an experiment from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a VLF radio module from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

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The ARRL Letter is published Fridays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL--the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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letter-dlvy@arrl.org
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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify

membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Friday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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424. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-18 23:13:50 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@nospam.invalid>
Message-ID: <7higi8F2tc9kbU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1834

On 14/09/09 20:36, Kï¿½HB wrote:
> My old shack/office/development computer needs to be replaced.
>
> My ham applications are WriteLog, Logger32, microHAM Router, and tQSL
> (LoTW).
>
> Are there any showstoppers if I buy something with Vista Home Premium
> installed, and upgrade to Windows 7 in the future. (No, I'm not
> interested in retrograding to XP).
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB

Why not try Linux..? It's free and there are plenty of useful Amateur Radio applications. Not sure if any match what you specify above but worth a look maybe..?

73 Ivor G6URP

425. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-20 20:50:36 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <h964ic$18r$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1835

Linux and XP are not options.

This computer will need to "triple" as my ham radio machine, home office machine, and also developing/debugging new Windows applications.

73, de Hans, K0HB
--

"Ivor Jones" <ivor@nospam.invalid> wrote in message news:7higi8F2tc9kbU1@mid.individual.net...
> On 14/09/09 20:36, Kï¿½HB wrote:
>> My old shack/office/development computer needs to be replaced.
>>
>> My ham applications are WriteLog, Logger32, microHAM Router, and tQSL
>> (LoTW).
>>
>> Are there any showstoppers if I buy something with Vista Home Premium
>> installed, and upgrade to Windows 7 in the future. (No, I'm not
>> interested in retrograding to XP).
>>
>> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
> Why not try Linux..? It's free and there are plenty of useful Amateur
> Radio applications. Not sure if any match what you specify above but wo
rth
> a look maybe..?
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP
>

426. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-20 23:33:37 UTC
From: JB <nospam@goofball.net>
Message-ID: <h8xtm.3091$tl3.1610@nwrddc01.gnilink.net>
Source record: 1836

"Kï¿½HB" <kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
news:h964ic$18r$1@adenine.netfront.net...
Linux and XP are not options.

This computer will need to "triple" as my ham radio machine, home office
machine, and also developing/debugging new Windows applications.

73, de Hans, K0HB

Dual Boot XP/Vista is doable but it is a whole lot easier to do starting
with XP first. There are tutorials on this. I have often found dual
booting to be a good way to continue using software while finding
compatibility solutions. I realize some of the new hardware has problem
s
with that.

427. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-21 15:23:29 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@nospam.invalid>
Message-ID: <7hnsh2F2t61bmU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1837

On 21/09/09 00:33, JB wrote:
>
> "Kï¿½HB"<kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
> news:h964ic$18r$1@adenine.netfront.net...
> Linux and XP are not options.
>
> This computer will need to "triple" as my ham radio machine, home office
> machine, and also developing/debugging new Windows applications.
>
> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>
>
> Dual Boot XP/Vista is doable but it is a whole lot easier to do starting
> with XP first. There are tutorials on this. I have often found dual
> booting to be a good way to continue using software while finding
> compatibility solutions. I realize some of the new hardware has problem
> s
> with that.

I dual-boot WinXP and Linux. Don't often run up XP except if I need to
use the occasional bit of software that won't run under Wine.

73 Ivor G6URP

428. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-21 16:22:35 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <AOCdnYH-aOtbPirXnZ2dnUVZ_v6dnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1838

```
Ivor Jones wrote:
> On 21/09/09 00:33, JB wrote:
>>
>> "Kï¿½HB"<kzerohb@gmail.com> wrote in message
>> news:h964ic$18r$1@adenine.netfront.net...
>> Linux and XP are not options.
>>
>> This computer will need to "triple" as my ham radio machine, home offi
ce
>> machine, and also developing/debugging new Windows applications.
>>
>> 73, de Hans, K0HB
>>
>>
>> Dual Boot XP/Vista is doable but it is a whole lot easier to do starti
ng
>> with XP first. There are tutorials on this. I have often found dual
>> booting to be a good way to continue using software while finding
>> compatibility solutions. I realize some of the new hardware has prob
lems
>> with that.
>
> I dual-boot WinXP and Linux. Don't often run up XP except if I need to
> use the occasional bit of software that won't run under Wine.
>
> 73 Ivor G6URP
>

If you go that route, it's easiest to start with XP, install Vista, and
then put Linux in last. Don't forget to plan your disk usage in advance:
XP and Vista can share the same "data" drive, but remember that Linux is
only able to _read_ from NTFS partitions, so you might want to choose
FAT32 for drives that will be shared between Windows and Linux.

HTH.

73,

Bill W1AC
(Filter QRM for direct replies)
```

429. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-22 03:28:24 UTC
From: Ivor Jones <ivor@nospam.invalid>
Message-ID: <7hqo5rF2uju4iU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1839

On 21/09/09 17:22, Bill Horne wrote:

[snip]

> If you go that route, it's easiest to start with XP, install Vista, and
> then put Linux in last. Don't forget to plan your disk usage in advance:
> XP and Vista can share the same "data" drive, but remember that Linux is
> only able to _read_ from NTFS partitions, so you might want to choose
> FAT32 for drives that will be shared between Windows and Linux.
>
> HTH.
>
> 73,
>
> Bill W1AC
> (Filter QRM for direct replies)
>

That's strange, I seem to be able to read/write to all the NTFS disks on my system from within Linux. I have Linux on a separate HDD on my main desktop machine and there are also 3 NAS drives on the network, all are accessible from both my Linux machines.

73 Ivor G6URP

430. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-22 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1253599201@panix.com>
Source record: 1840
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

431. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-22 06:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1253599501@panix.com>
Source record: 1841
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

432. The ARRL Letter, Vol 28, No 38 (Thursday, September 24, 2009)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-24 19:16:40 UTC
From: ARRL Letter Mailing List <letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20090924190632.D94A231E0A@www.arrl.org>
Source record: 1842
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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***************
The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 38
September 24, 2009
***************

IN THIS EDITION:

* + Preparations Underway for WRC-12
* + Changes in Store for The ARRL Letter
* ARRL: A Proud History of Defending Amateurs' Rights
* + Call for Nominations: The ARRL's Bill Leonard, W2SKE Professional
Media Award
* + Newly Elected Section Managers Converge on Newington
* + ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and Notifications
* Solar Update
* IN BRIEF:
This Week on the Radio
ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration
+ ARRL to Welcome USTTI Students
+ More CubeSats in Orbit

+Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

============================================================
==>Delivery problems: First see FAQ
<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/faq.html#nodelivery>, then e-mail
<letter-dlvy@arrl.org>
==>Editorial questions or comments only: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA
<k1sfa@arrl.org>
============================================================

==> PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY FOR WRC-12

Approximately 200 participants came together in an ITU preliminary
meeting that ended September 16 in Geneva, Switzerland to help African
countries prepare for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference
(WRC-12)
<http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/index.asp?category=conferences&rlink=wrc-12%C3
%83%C2%A2%C3%82%C5%92%C3%82%C2%A9=en>. The six regional
telecommunications organizations -- APT (Asia-Pacific), ASMG (Arab
States), ATU (Africa), CEPT (Europe), CITEL (the Americas) and RCC
(independent states of the former Soviet Union) -- were represented at
the meeting. This meeting was part of a series of ongoing international
and regional preparatory meetings to allow government and industry to
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address the far-reaching and complex agenda of the WRC-12. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jonathan Siverling, WB3ERA, and IARU Region 1 Vice President Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, were among the participants.

WRC-12, which will be held in Geneva from January 23-February 17, 2012, will review the international treaty that governs radiocommunications -- the ITU Radio Regulations <http://www.itu.int/publ/R-REG-RR-2008/en>. The conference will be preceded by the Radiocommunication Assembly (RA-12), also to be held in Geneva, January 16-20, 2012.

The agenda for WRC-12, developed by the delegates at the last WRC in Geneva in 2007 (WRC-07), was formally adopted by the ITU Council in 2008. There are 25 agenda items addressing potential new or revised spectrum allocations to existing services. A key objective is the review of the international regulatory framework applicable to radiocommunications. This review should reflect the convergence of some radio services arising from the development of next-generation networks (NGN) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Next_Generation_Networking>, as well as new radio applications and technologies. Of most interest to amateurs is agenda item 1.23, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services."

"This agenda item is the highest item on my long term priority list," said ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX. "We are fortunate that this upcoming WRC presents an opportunity for a new secondary allocation in the medium waves. While the outcome is far from certain, our experience in other bands -- most notably 30 meters -- indicates Amateur Radio's compatibility with certain other services as a secondary user."

According to the ITU, WRC-12 will focus on appropriate spectrum sharing mechanisms to make the best use of the digital dividend in the UHF and other frequency bands, providing new opportunities for radiocommunication services. It will also identify the spectrum requirements to increase security for both maritime and aeronautical transport services. Additional spectrum resources will also be identified for scientific and other radiocommunication services, specifically related to the environment, meteorology and climatology, as well as disaster prediction, mitigation and relief. Along with the introduction of more efficient digital services requiring less power consumption, WRC-12 will be a milestone to meet ITU's commitment to achieve climate neutrality with the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communication_technologies> as effective tools to combat climate change and its effects.

Along with IARU volunteers worldwide, Price and Siverling are monitoring developments on a number of other agenda items that could affect Amateur Radio if they take unanticipated turns, including:
* Agenda item 1.14, considering requirements for and implementation of the radiolocation service (radar) between 30-300 MHz.

* Agenda item 1.15, considering possible allocations between 3-50 MHz for oceanographic radar applications.
* Agenda item 1.19, considering regulatory measures to enable software-defined and cognitive radio systems.
* Agenda item 1.22, examining the effect of emissions from short-range devices.

"Oceanographic radar is perhaps our biggest defensive issue," Price said. "Fortunately, its proponents have acknowledged that sharing with Amateur Radio would be problematic."

The ITU preparatory meetings ahead of WRC-12 provide an opportunity to exchange information and views on the ongoing studies regarding WRC-12 agenda items, as well as on the common proposals and positions of the regional groups and other organizations. The discussions in this meeting addressed all WRC-12 agenda items and identified those deserving special consideration for African countries, including the sensitive issue related to the operation of security systems for ships and ports and the shared use of the planned digital TV spectrum by other services.

The Director of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau Valery Timofeev noted that the agenda for WRC-12 was likely to be as complex as the previous World Radiocommunication Conference held in 2007. "We need to continue the trend toward increasing the number of common and coordinated proposals," he explained. "This process, which highlights the great spirit of international cooperation and consensus building at ITU, has proved to be increasingly successful in the WRC process." Timofeev added that the level of participation at the meeting indicated the importance of the WRC process "to improve regulatory procedures, to provide frequency and orbit resources for new technologies and to strengthen the technical framework for the operation of services."

Recognizing that WRC-12 is an important event for the future of information and communication technologies, ITU Secretary-General Hamadoun Toure, HB9EHT, said the forthcoming conference will be a landmark in achieving ITU's connectivity targets: "WRC-12 will be held only three years ahead of 2015 -- the target date to connect all villages, towns and cities, universities and schools in the world and to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>. If there is any chance to meet these goals, we must rely on ICTs -- omnipresent tools with profound implications for all economic sectors -- to accelerate the process and bridge the digital divide." -- Thanks to the ITU for some information

==> CHANGES IN STORE FOR THE ARRL LETTER

After asking for feedback from ARRL Letter subscribers and reviewing surveys sent to ARRL members, we are changing the way you receive The ARRL Letter. Starting next week -- October 1 -- The ARRL Letter will be available to subscribers in an HTML formatted version. Each message will contain both an HTML and a plain-text version of the Letter, and the recipient's mail program can choose which version to display. For our

members who prefer a plain-text version of the Letter, there will be simple instructions on the ARRL Letter Web page that describe how to view the plain-text version in some of the more common mail programs.

According to ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, this new format will allow for more graphics and pictures, as well as occasional articles that feature the technical side of Amateur Radio. We will also be running portions of popular QST features, such as "The Doctor Is IN" and "Hints & Kinks."

"I am very excited about presenting The ARRL Letter in a completely new format," Keane said. "Not only will we be able to add features such as pictures and video, but by offering the Letter in HTML, readers will be able to navigate directly to those stories they are most interested in. The ARRL already offers two other newsletters -- The ARRL Contest Update and The ARRL ARES E-Letter -- in an HTML version. We have received a lot of positive feedback on these two newsletters."

The ARRL Letter first appeared in 1981 as a print publication, available by subscription from the League. In 1991 -- following the technology of the day -- it moved from being a print publication to being published electronically and sent via e-mail as a free service to ARRL members. "Now, once again, we at the ARRL are following technology's path and publishing The ARRL Letter in a new way, moving from plain text to a graphically pleasing interface," Keane explained.

We think you will enjoy this new format, and we welcome your comments. Tell us what you like -- and don't like -- by sending an e-mail to Keane <k1sfa@arrl.org>, with "ARRL Letter Feedback" in the subject line.

==> ARRL: A PROUD HISTORY OF DEFENDING AMATEURS' RIGHTS

The fall operating season is just around the corner. Whether it's because radio conditions improve or just because attention returns to indoor pursuits as the days get shorter, on-the-air activity always picks up at this time of the year.

Do you operate on 40 meters? "If you haven't been on the band lately, you're in for a real treat!" said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Years of patient effort by the ARRL and by our sister members of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) have paid off. The band is more useful now than it's been in more than 70 years. When you think of 40 meters, you probably think of interference from foreign broadcasters. Here in the Americas, amateurs always have had access to 7,000-7,300 kHz - but we had to tolerate broadcasters in the rest of the world in the upper two-thirds of the band."

Sumner said he can recall the "futility" he felt as a 13-year-old Novice, "trying to make myself heard through the racket with just two crystal-controlled transmitting frequencies to choose from. I remember taking the crystal holders apart and putting pencil lead on the crystals in a vain attempt to slip in between the broadcasting behemoths." At the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) -- 40 years later --

he had the privilege of being present in Geneva when it was agreed that amateurs had made the case for a wider worldwide amateur band, free of broadcasting interference." For the first time in the history of radio communication, an HF broadcasting allocation would be shifted in order to accommodate the needs of another radio service -- the Amateur Radio Service!
Sumner called the WRC-03 decision "very gratifying," but said an important question remained: Would the broadcasters really move? "The International Telecommunication Union has no enforcement authority," he explained, "and operation in contravention of the international Radio Regulations is not exactly unknown. In fact, the transition turned out to be quite dramatic. On the last weekend of March, on Friday evening 7,100-7,200 kHz was full of broadcasters as usual -- but as the new seasonal broadcasting schedule took effect on Saturday night the band cleared of all but a few. For the very first time our overseas friends could hear us on 40 meter phone without having to breach the wall of broadcasters! Over the past six months the situation has continued to improve as more broadcasters have complied with the WRC-03 decision. Nighttime operation above 7,200 kHz remains a challenge, but it's not an exaggeration to say that 40 meters is like a whole new band."

Sumner explained that moving hundreds of broadcast transmitters in dozens of countries out of a band didn't just happen: "It took years of patient effort by a global team of volunteers and ARRL professionals, working through the IARU, to overcome objections and marshal the necessary support. It was an expensive undertaking, and it never could have been accomplished without the voluntary contributions - above and beyond their basic dues - of thousands of ARRL members."

Even as we celebrate our reborn 40 meter band, Sumner said that we, as amateurs, must remember that it takes hard work just to hang onto what we have. "As much as we like to pursue new and improved ham bands, most of our effort must go toward frequency defense," he said. "Every day, new uses of the radio spectrum are being conceived. Each one competes for spectrum access with incumbent radio services, including ours. Not only must we defend our allocations against well-heeled backers of licensed services, we must also try to prevent the pollution of the radio spectrum by unlicensed devices. The fight goes on in Washington, Geneva and around the globe -- and there's no end in sight."

Decisions for WRC-12 are being made now that will determine how many administrations -- including the United States - will support a new secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 500 kHz, and whether proposals for allocations to oceanographic radars will threaten some of our existing HF bands. "We are hard at work meeting these challenges, but we need your help," Sumner said, in asking for support for the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. "Members' past response helped us to keep commercial satellites out of the 144 and 420 MHz bands, to gain access to frequencies around 5 MHz, and to win our court challenge of the FCC's flawed Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) rules. New challenges keep cropping up. Currently we are working to ensure that new short-range

medical devices do not impact our ability to use our UHF and microwave bands."

To help in the ARRL's ongoing mission to protect our valuable spectrum, please visit the Spectrum Defense area on the ARRL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/>. You can also reach ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, at 860-594-0397 or via e-mail <k1mmh@arrl.org>. Special gifts are being offered for contributions, including a mug and pin. More details on thank you gifts can be found on the donation form for the Spectrum Defense Fund.

==> CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: THE ARRL'S BILL LEONARD, W2SKE PROFESSIONAL MEDIA AWARD

Since 1999 when Jeff Holland -- former city editor for "The Enquirer-Journal" in Monroe, North Carolina -- was named the first winner of the Bill Leonard, W2SKE Professional Media Award, there has been only one award given out each year. The award -- honoring the late Bill Leonard, a former president of CBS News -- recognizes a professional journalist whose outstanding coverage best reflects the enjoyment, importance and public service value of the Amateur Radio Service.

"At the time, printed newspapers were still a main news source," said ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP. "Now there is the Internet, a host of blogs and news sites, audio and video streaming, cell phone alerts and many more news outlets still in development. The world of media and news reporting has been caught in the rip-currents of technology and it's causing the overnight erosion of old models while creating new opportunities."

Pitts remembers when it once was a major accomplishment for an Amateur Radio Public Information Officer (PIO) to get a few column inches in ink. "Now, the same positive PR outcomes can be achieved by placement on community Web sites and inclusion in blogs," he explained. "In the meantime, video capabilities have become available to almost anyone with a cell phone and ever more media outlets are incorporating video clips into their product."

The ARRL Public Relations Committee recognized that one award, looking at only one medium, was no longer the best fit to the current realities of PR, and the best way to update the Leonard Award was to solicit input from the very professionals who worked in this new media arena. With a subcommittee of nationally recognized reporters and media managers, they looked not only at the award itself, but also at ways to make it a catalyst for even more coverage of Amateur Radio topics in the future. Their recommendations were presented to the ARRL Board of Directors this past July. To address both current and coming news modalities, the award was split into three areas:
* Audio formats -- primarily something you listen to
* Visual formats -- primarily something you watch
* Print and Text formats -- primarily something you read

Each of the three categories will have an honorarium of $250 for the best selection within that category, but the PRC can also exercise discretion to withhold an award within a category in any given year based on the quality and content of submissions, Pitts explained.

"Many news outlets have strict rules against reporters receiving any cash or other material prizes from outside sources," he said. "What may be a 'prize' to one person could be seen as 'kickback' to another. So the Leonard honorariums will no longer go to the recipients, but rather to Internal Revenue Service 501[c](3) recognized non-profit organizations of the recipients' choosing. The three recipients will still receive personalized plaques. In this way the recipient can donate the $250 to their favorite charity (or even back to the ARRL). This avoids burdening nominated reporters with any ethics issues."

Complete information on the Bill Leonard Award, including entry and selection criteria, can be found in the November 2009 issue of QST.

==> NEWLY ELECTED SECTION MANAGERS CONVERGE ON NEWINGTON

This weekend, 12 Section Managers who are new -- or returning after a long absence -- to their post are in Newington for an orientation. The primary purposes of the Workshop sessions are to share ideas and to provide basic administrative, management, leadership and motivational training.

"The Section Manager Workshop is an orientation and training event for new Section Managers that have come on board within the last year or so," said Supervisor of the ARRL Field Organization Team Steve Ewald, WV1X. "ARRL has conducted this training each year at HQ for the past several years, and it has been well received by past participants. The Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Staff and its Field Organization Team are the lead coordinators of the event. We also cover the responsibilities and functions of the Section Manager's position, and the SMs are able to visit with ARRL Headquarters staff members and learn more about the many programs that ARRL supports. The Workshop sessions are presented by several ARRL Headquarter staff members who are experts in their respective areas."

Arkansas Section Manager J.M. Rowe, N5XFW; Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Mike Neilsen, W1MPN; Georgia Section Manager Gene Clark, W4AYK; Iowa Section Manager Tom Brehmer, N0LOH; Los Angeles Section Manager David Greenhut, N6HD; New York City-Long Island Section Manager Mike Lisenco, N2YBB; North Texas Section Manager Jay Urish, W5GM; Oklahoma Section Manager Dean Fekan, KL7MA; San Joaquin Valley Section Manager Dan Pruitt, AE6SX; Southern New Jersey Section Manager George Strayline, W2GSS; South Texas Section Manager Lee Cooper, W5LHC, and Wyoming Section Manager Garth Crowe, N7XKT, are in attendance.

==> ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the

ARES E-Letter (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, just to name a few.

You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when their membership and license are due to expire.

Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Him whose strenuous tongue can burst Joy's grape against his palate fine" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Two large sunspots, 1026 and 1027, both emerged in the past few days. We could see them in advance of their appearance while they formed on the side of the sun previously unseen from earth, via the NASA STEREO mission, mentioned in last week's bulletin. These spots, emerging on the autumnal equinox, should enhance HF propagation, and expect them to increase in size as they move into the most geoeffective position over the next couple of days. We will discuss this more in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, September 25. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. To read this week's Solar Report in its entirety, check out the W1AW Propagation Bulletin page <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/prop/>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' "Ode on Melancholy" <http://www.bartleby.com/101/628.html>.

==>IN BRIEF:

* This Week on the Radio: Next week, look for the NCCC Sprint on September 25. The Texas QSO Party, the CQ Worldwide DX Contest (RTTY) and Scandinavian Activity Contest (SSB) are all September 26-27. QRP Homebrewer Sprint is September 28, and the Fall 222 MHz Sprint is September 29. Next week, the California QSO Party and the Oceana DX Contest are October 3-4. The Fall 432 MHz Sprint is October 7. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

* ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration: Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions

beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. Each online course has been developed in segments -- learning units with objectives, informative text, student activities and quizzes. Courses are interactive, and some include direct communications with a Mentor/Instructor. Students register for a particular session that may be 8, 12 or 16 weeks (depending on the course) and they may access the course at any time of day during the course period, completing lessons and activities at times convenient for their personal schedule. Mentors assist students by answering questions, reviewing assignments and activities, as well as providing helpful feedback. Interaction with mentors is conducted through e-mail; there is no appointed time the student must be present -- allowing complete flexibility for the student to work when and where it is convenient. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

* ARRL to Welcome USTTI Students: Next month -- October 12-16 -- the ARRL will welcome students from various countries from all over the world who want to learn how to administer and regulate Amateur Radio programs in their home countries. This course, offered by the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) <http://ustti.org/>, will help participants create, administer and foster an Amateur Radio Service in their countries. Designed for those in developing countries who regulate and manage their country's Amateur Radio Service, this course will help participants learn just who radio amateurs are. ARRL staff instructors will help course participants discover the ever-expanding universe of Amateur Radio communication. They will explain why Amateur Radio operators -- upwards of three million individuals in virtually every country of the world -- have earned licenses to operate stations in the Service and why they are recognized, both by their governments and internationally, as a valuable voluntary telecommunications resource. Course participants will also discover how a telecommunications administration can bring the benefits of a healthy Amateur Service to its nation. Now in its 27th year, USTTI is a nonprofit venture involving leading US-based communications and information technology corporations and leaders of the federal government cooperating to provide tuition-free management, policy and technical training for talented professionals from the developing world. This is the 25th year the ARRL has participated in the program.

* More CubeSats in Orbit: Early Thursday morning (UTC), an Indian PSLV-C14 rocket carried the Oceansat-2 satellite <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceansat-2> to orbit, along with four CubeSats and two RubinSats. The RubinSats are 8 kg research modules that will remain attached to the PSLV-C14 booster. CubeSats are very small satellites, typically only a few inches on each side. As they are a relatively inexpensive research spacecraft, they've become increasingly popular with university science programs. A number of CubeSats use

Amateur Radio frequencies to downlink telemetry, as is the case with this latest group. Early reports indicate that all of the CubeSats are active. You can check out the frequencies and modes of the four satellites on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/23/11090/?nc=1>.

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The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year, by the American Radio Relay League: ARRL -- the national association for Amateur Radio, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0200; fax 860-594-0259; <http://www.arrl.org>. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President.

The ARRL Letter offers a weekly e-mail digest of essential and general news of interest to active radio amateurs. Visit the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org> for the latest Amateur Radio news and news updates. The ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/> also offers informative features and columns. ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> is a weekly "ham radio newscast" compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter. It's also available as a podcast from our Web site.

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==>Delivery problems (ARRL member direct delivery only!):
letter-dlvy@arrl.org
==>Editorial questions or comments: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, k1sfa@arrl.org
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==>ARRL Audio News: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> or call 860-594-0384

==>How to Get The ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe, unsubscribe or change your address for e-mail delivery:
ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Web Site <http://www.arrl.org/members/>. You'll have an opportunity during registration to sign up for e-mail delivery of The ARRL Letter, W1AW bulletins, and other material. To change these selections--including delivery of The ARRL Letter--registered members should click on the "Member Data Page" link (in the Members Only box). Click on "Modify membership data," check or uncheck the appropriate boxes and/or change your e-mail address if necessary. (Check "Temporarily disable all automatically sent email" to temporarily stop all e-mail deliveries.) Then, click on "Submit modification" to make selections effective. (NOTE: HQ staff members cannot change your e-mail delivery address. You must do this yourself via the Members Only Web Site.)

The ARRL Letter also is available to all, free of charge, from these sources:

* ARRLWeb <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>. (NOTE: The ARRL Letter will be posted each Thursday when it is distributed via e-mail.)

* The QTH.net listserver, thanks to volunteers from the Boston Amateur Radio Club: Visit Mailing Lists@QTH.Net <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/letter-list>. (NOTE: The ARRL cannot assist subscribers who receive The ARRL Letter via this listserver.)

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ARRL News Editor
ARRL - the national association for Amateur Radio (tm)
860.594.0237
www.arrl.org/news
k1sfa@arrl.org

433. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1676 - September 25 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-25 13:15:33 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20090925012934.037800c8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1843
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1676 - September 25 2009

WITH NEWSLINE: SOME WORDS OF THANKS

The following is a Q-S-T. Ladies and gentlemen, with some thank you's to those who support these newscasts, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ

--

In November 2008 we heard from the Great South Bay ARC, W2GSB, of West Babylon, NY and Samuel Parnes, KI6OAA of Beverly Hills, CA.

Via PayPal there were W0CE and K0MSP of Midwest Broadcast Engineering and Ronald Hashiro, AH6RH in Hawaii.

In December we heard via PayPal we heard from John Leonard, W9JBL in De Kalb, IL; Joseph Kratky with the Hamfesters Radio Club 2 meter net W9AA and Chuck Harding, who relays Newsline for the Livermore ARC in the bay area on their Monday evening net.

Our volunteer staff who puts these newscasts together thank all of these people who helped bring these newscasts to you, and you can do the same by writing to us at the Newsline Support address given at the end of this newscast, or by going to our website at arnewsline.org.

I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and we thank you for listening.

--

Andy will be back with us in the near future with more thank-you's to those who have contributed to the support fund. (ARNewsline Support Fund)

**

Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1676 with a release date of Friday, September 25th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1. South Africa's long awaited ham radio satellite is in space, a Cycle 24 Sunspot makes an appearance, the Dutch National ham radio society says that D-Star repeaters will not be in the ham satellite subband, a popular DX award program turns 75 and color coding comes to a favorite on-line research tool. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1676 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUMBANDILA SAT NOW IN ORBIT

South Africa's SumbandilaSat is on orbit. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

--

The third time was a charm. This as SumbandilaSat was successfully launched at 17:55:09 Central African Time on Thursday, September 17. This after the launch had to be postponed twice due to weather and technical problems with the booster that carried it into space.

After attaining orbit the satellite was released from the rocket while over the Antarctic. 10 minutes later it was accessed by the ground station at the Stellenbosch University when the first command was sent to wake up the bird. Despite the low elevation orbit of less than 10 degrees SumbandilaSat responded well by returning its first telemetry.

An intensive period of payload qualification period will now follow during which each system of SumbandilaSat will be tested. This is expected to take up to 3 months after which the command will shift to the CSIR's Satellite Application Center north of Pretoria and eventually opened for general use.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, saying congratulations to the hams of South Africa on their hew satellite -- SumbandilaSat.

--

Launched along with SumbandilaSat was the Meteor M-N1 satellite Late reports indicate that it may be transmitting on 435.365 MHz. Details on this new bird are
http://planet.iitp.ru/english/spacecraft/meteor-m-n1_eng.htm
(SA-AMSAT, Southgate)

**

PROPAGATION BULLETIN: NEW CYCLE 24 SPOT ON THE FACE OF THE SUN

Some good news from the big circular disk in the daytime sky. Spaceweather reports that Sunspot 1026 emerged on Sunday, September 20th U-T-C to break a string of 19 consecutive spotless days.

Sunspot 1026 is described as being about as wide as the diameter of the Earth. This makes it an easy target for backyard solar telescopes. The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory has measured the spot's magnetic polarity and identified it as a member of new Solar Cycle 24.

Could this be a harbinger of more to come? Spaceweather says its apparently is. So stay tuned and keep your radio tuned in.
(Spaceweather)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: GLORIOSO ISLAND IS ON THE AIR

Some breaking news in the world of DX. This, with word that the Glorioso Island FT5GA DXpedition team is now active. Operation is reported on all of the high frequency bands using CW, SSB and RTTY but most stateside stations report that signals are very weak.

The team reportedly had some antenna problems at first due to windy weather conditions and later a faulty contact on a WARC band Spiderbeam. That was repaired and indications are that all three stations are now on the air.

Operations will last until October 5th per the FT5GA web page. Its in cyberspace at http://glorieuses2008.free.fr and we will have more DX related items near the end of this weeks newscast. (Glorioso Island DX Team)

**

RESTRUCTURING FOLLOW-UP: ANOTHER VIEW ON THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT - D-STAR REPEATERS AND THE HAM SATELLITE BAND

A follow-up and also a different story regarding the D-Star repeater subband reallocation in the Netherlands. This time its from Abraham van den Berg, P-B-Zero-A-O-K who is VERON's VHF manager. Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has been following the story and has the latest:

--

VERON PRON Veer On

For those unaware, the VERON is the Dutch national IARU society much like the ARRL is in the national society in the United States. And Abraham van den Berg, PB0AOK, disputes the report by Amsat North America and PE1HZG that the Dutch telecommunications administration is thinking about operating D-Star repeaters in the 437 to 438 MHz band.

Van den Berg says that at this time the amateur service in the Netherlands and neighboring countries suffers from harmful interference caused by the implementation of the Radiolocation service in the 438 to 440 MHz band. And says PB0AOK, for that reason, use of D-Star repeaters with output frequencies in the upper 2 MHz part of the Region 1 70cm band has been hampered.

To solve this problem, recently the Dutch D-Star community came up with a proposal to plan the output frequencies of D-Star repeaters just below 438 MHz and has asked VERON to support this proposal. But says van den Berg, the VERON has decided not to do so/ This, due to incompatibility between the amateur service and amateur-satellite service. Moreover, says PBAOK, the proposal deviates significantly from the IARU Region 1 band plan.

According to PB0AOK, the VERON has made an alternative proposition. This, to amend the Dutch national frequency plan in such a way that it fully complies with article 5 RR of the the European Common Allocation table, as well as the IARU Region 1 band plan.

So now it's a wait and see game between the Dutch national society and that nations telecommunications regulators.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

--

More on this issue in upcoming Amateur Radio Newsline reports.
(PB0AOK, others)

**

RADIO POLITICS: HAM RADIO PREPARES FOR WRC 2012

Ham radio is getting ready for the next major World Radiocommunications conference slated for Geneva, Switzerland from January 23 to February 17, 2012. To get ready, Approximately 200 participants came together in an ITU preliminary meeting that ended September 16 in Geneva. ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jonathan Siverling, WB3ERA, and IARU Region 1 Vice President Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, were among the participants. Also present were the power players representing the six regional telecommunications organizations including CITEL from the Americas. This meeting was part of a series of ongoing international and regional preparatory meetings to allow government and industry to address the far-reaching and complex agenda of WRC 12. (ARRL, Southgate, others)

**

WORLDBEAT: US GENERALS GIVEN CEPT NOVICE PRIVILEGES IN SOME NATIONS

Radio amateurs with United States General Class licenses to get reciprocal licenses in some CEPT countries, but with limited privileges.

On Thursday, September 10, the Federal Communications Commission released a new Public Notice implementing changes in the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations or CEPT reciprocal operating arrangements for US citizens who hold a United States General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio licenses. While nothing has been altered in regard to Advanced or Extra class licensees, there is good news for those holding the General. US citizens holding a General class license who had lost all CEPT reciprocal privileges in 2008 have now been granted CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License.

But according to the ARRL's Dan Henderson, this is not an across the board permit. Henderson says that it is important to note two things about the agreement. First is that not all European countries have implemented this recommendation. Therefore, a US General class operator does not have reciprocal privileges in many countries, including popular US travel destinations like Italy, the UK or France.

Second, as with any reciprocal operation, the band frequencies and privileges are those allowed by the host country and not the

frequencies and privileges extended by your FCC license while in the United States or its possessions. Therefore, travelers need to make sure they are familiar with the authorized privileges for the CEPT Novice Radio Amateur License in the nation in which they plan to operate. (ARRL, Southgate, others)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Amateur Radio Association's AA6DP repeater serving all of Southern California from 26 miles across the sea.

(5 sec pause here)

**

CQ MAGAZINE ANNOUNCES 75th ANNIVERSARY WAZ AWARD

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of its Worked All Zones or W-A-Z award program, CQ magazine is announcing a limited-term "Diamond Jubilee W-A-Z award. A special certificate will be issued to amateurs who make contacts in all 40 CQ Zones of the World between November 1, 2009 and December 31, 2010. Certificates will be numbered but there will be no endorsements. Confirmations will not be required. However, it is expected that applicants will continue to uphold amateur radio's long-standing tradition of honesty and self-regulation. Standard WAZ application fees will apply. Complete details on the Diamond Jubilee WAZ Award will be in the October 2009 issue of CQ, and are posted on the CQ website at www.cq-amateur-radio.com. (CQ)

**

COMMUNICATIONS LAW: FCC PROPOSES REGULATING INTERNET CONNECTIVITY SPEED

Its not exactly amateur radio but it will affect hams who use the Internet for such applications as Echolink, IRLP, and other VoIP communications. This as the head of the FCC plans to propose new rules that would prohibit Internet service providers from interfering with the free flow of information and certain applications over their networks. Amateur Radio Newsline's Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, follows happenings at the FCC and has this report:

--

The head of the FCC plans to propose new rules that would prohibit Internet service providers from interfering with the free flow of information and certain applications over their networks, an official at the agency said Saturday.

The Federal Communications Commission chairman, Julius Genachowski, will announce the proposed rules in a speech Monday at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank, the official said on condition of anonymity because news of the announcement had not been released.

The proposals would uphold a pledge Barack Obama made during the presidential campaign to support Internet neutrality -- the equal treatment of Internet traffic. That would bar Internet service providers such as Verizon Communications Inc., Comcast Corp. or AT&T Inc., from slowing or blocking certain services or content flowing through their vast networks.

Without strict rules ensuring Net neutrality, consumer watchdogs fear the communications companies could interfere with the transmission of content, such as TV shows delivered over the Internet, that compete with services the ISPs offer, like cable television.

Internet providers have opposed regulations that would inhibit the way they control their networks, arguing they need to be able to make sure applications that consume a lot of bandwidth don't slow Internet access to other users.

"This is about whether I can turn off my cable TV and watch TV over the Internet," said Dave Burstein, editor of the DSL Prime broadband industry newsletter. "Comcast cares about this because they don't want people to turn off their cable TV."

I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

--

Many of you may recall that the FCC adopted four principles on Internet policy in 2005. Burstein thinks the FCC probably will adopt a fifth principle on nondiscrimination as part of the expected new rules. (FCC, W8HDU)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC TO CONTINUE CBS SUPER BOWL EXPOSURE CASE

The FCC says it wants to further investigate whether CBS' indecency violation in the Janet Jackson Super Bowl costume malfunction was willful. In a brief recently filed to the Third Circuit Appeals Court he FCC contends that the evidence in this case strongly suggests that CBS had access to video delay technology at the time of the 2004 Super Bowl incident. The FCC asked the court to remand the decision back to the Commission so it could investigate further its assertion that the violation was "willful."

The Third Circuit, in reversing the FCC's fine against the broadcast, said the evidence that delay technology was available at the time was scant. The FCC disagrees and wants the chance to determine whether CBS was reckless not to use video delay technology for this broadcast. (B & C)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC TO REASSESS PARENTAL CONTROL OF TELE-VIEWING

The Federal Communications Commission is about to open a reassessment of the V-chip and of family-friendly programming. This to determine if it is possible to have a single-content ratings system that can apply to movies, video games, TV and cellular telephones. The study may also look at ways to ensure that once a TV show or movie is rated, data is readily available whether the program subsequently is viewed on TV, cable, a phone or a computer.

Back in 1996 Congress required TV set makers to include the V-Chip in TVs. This Integrated Circuit technology allows parents and other televiewers the ability to set their TV receivers to screen out shows whose ratings didn't meet their personal standards.

Critics argue that the technology needs updating with a system that can now offer more information, and is less confusing. This is because motion pictures, TV programs and music each use different ratings systems and because some TV programs are rated inconsistently between networks. On the other side the TV networks, cable industry and the National Association of Broadcasters, argue that the current V-Chip system works well giving adult television viewers the ability to lock out material that they do not want their family members to watch. However, studies have found that relatively few American families actually use the V-Chip to control their youngsters viewing habits. (WRAP OnLine, others)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VHF QRP AT QRPACIFICON ON OCTOBER 10

Some names in the news. First up is James Duffey, KK6MC. He says that he will be giving a talk on "VHF and UHF Operating and Contesting for the Beginner and QRPer." This, on October 10th at the NorCal QRP group's annual forum QRPacificon. The venue is the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Milpitas, California. More is on the at http://www.norcalqrp.org/pacificon09.htm (KK6MC)

**

VE4HAY RE-ELECTED RAC MIDWEST DIRECTOR

And congratulations to Derek Hay, VE4HAY, of Winnipeg who has been re-elected as the Midwest Region Director of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Hey ran unopposed and was declared re-elected on September 16th. (RAC)

**

WITH NEWSLINE: NEWSLINE ARCHIVE AT YAHOOGROUPS

Every now and again we receive an e-mail or phone call asking if we keep an on-line archive of old newscasts. The fact is that we used to have one on our website but as the newscast expanded to its present 26

minute length we needed the bandwidth and storage space to accommodate our audio service. So, about 1999 the on-line archive went away.

There are several radio clubs and groups that do have many of our older newscasts in audio form and a search using Google will bring up many of them. And if its only the newscast text that you require then you need only log onto groups dot yahoo dot com slash group slash arnewsline slash messages. There you will find the text of all of our newscasts going back to January 26, 2001. We really do not maintain it as an archive specific but rather its an artifact of the Yahoogroups on-line service. Then again, its free with the only caveat being that you need to join the ARNewsline Yahoogroup to access it which by the way also is free of charge.

As to an audio archive? As we said, some older newscasts can also be found with a Google search at some private websites, but none prior to the mid-1990's. All of those live only on reels of tape or cassettes in a cabinet in our office. With now some 33 years of them, its doubtful you will ever find anything prior to 1996 or thereabouts on-line. (ARNewsline)

**

FUNNY TECHNOLOGY: PIGEON BEATS INTERNET IN AFRICA

A South African information technology company claims that it has proven it was faster for them to transmit data with a carrier pigeon than to send it using the country's leading internet service provider Telkom.

The local news agency SAPA reported the 11-month-old pigeon named Winston took one hour and eight minutes to fly the 50 miles from Unlimited IT's offices to the coastal city of Durban with a data card was strapped to his leg. Including downloading, the transfer took two hours, six minutes and 57 seconds. That's the same time it took for only four percent of the data to be transferred using a Telkom line.

SAPA said Unlimited IT performed the stunt after becoming frustrated with slow internet transmission times. Internet speed and connectivity in Africa is poor because of a bandwidth shortage and also expensive for what service does exist. (Telecom News)

**

WORLDBEAT: AUSTRALIAN CB MOUNTAIN RADIO CHALLENGE

And while we rarely report on 11 meter events here's one where it is legal to make DX contacts and its even an organized happening. The reason is that its in Australia where it seems that the CB rules permit this kind of activity.

The Mountain Radio Challenge is the CB Radio event in question. It began around 1980 with CB'ers in the North Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne who would find mountains to camp on for the night and see what

distances could be achieved on the 27 MHz band using ground wave. The concept was that anyone could talk skip interstate or overseas, but to talk long distance without skip was a challenge.

The Mountain Radio Challenge continues to be held each year on Australian High Frequency CB Channel Ch 27. That translates into 27.275MHz on upper sideband. There's also FM activity on the Australian UHF CB Calling frequency of 477.075MHz. More information on the Mountain Radio Challenge is on the web at www.mrc.cat.net.au (WIA News, VK-VHF List)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO VS THE NET: FACEBOOK TO ADD VIVOX TWO WAY CALLING

Another challenge for radio hobbyists. This with word that the social networking site Facebook is adopting a third-party application that will permit voice contacts that will rival anything possible over the airwaves.

The new technology is not being offered from Vivox. This is Boston based company that provides the integrated voice service for virtual worlds like Second Life and EVE Online, and which already has more than 15 million users worldwide.

Once adopted, the service will allow Facebook users to have conversations with anyone on their friends list just by downloading a Vivox's plug-in. But once installed, the service works almost seamlessly with Facebook, and is intended for everything from one-to-one chat to large group discussions.

Vivox also plans to offer free dial-in numbers that will allow anyone to call into an existing conversation, much as is possible today with call-in phone conferences. This will allow even non-Facebook users will be able to participate.

Kind of like what hams do on the air all the time, minus the radio and antenna. (RW)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW 3-D IMAGING IN THE UK

Researchers at The University of Nottingham have a new weapon in their arsenal of tools to push back the boundaries of science, engineering, and archaeology. Called the Nanotom, it is described the most advanced 3D X-ray micro Computed Tomography scanner in the world. The Nanotom is expected to help researchers in a wide variety of scientific disciplines to literally see through solids. The machine will make previously difficult investigation much easier as it allows researchers to probe inside objects without having to break into them. (Science Daily)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ASTRONAUTS TRAIN WITH TERRESTRIAL SCHOOL CONTACTS

Astronauts Timothy Creamer, KC5WKI and Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP recently participated in Amateur Radio on the International Space Station training sessions. On Wednesday, September 9th the pair spoke with children from the Ralph McCall School in Alberta, Canada.

The training sessions are terrestrial-based amateur radio contacts using equivalent equipment to that which the astronauts will find on the International Space Station. Contact audio was available on the Internet Radio Linking Project. (ANS)

**

RADIO IN SPACE: GIANT HF ANTENNA HEARS SIGNALS FROM THE FINAL FRONTIER

Scientists from the National Research Lab's Space Science and Remote Sensing Divisions, working with researchers from the University of New Mexico and the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Socorro, New Mexico have seen their first scientific results from the Long Wavelength Demonstrator Array or LWDA antenna system. The group lead by Dr. Jake Hartman utilized radio emissions from the approximately 300 year-old Cassiopeia A supernova remnant to establish baseline measurements for the array.

The Cassiopeia A supernova remnant located in the astronomical constellation Cassiopeia is considered to be one of the largest and most active astronomical radio sources in the sky. The measurements were obtained during field tests and calibration of two prototype antennas for the much larger Long Wavelength Array which will eventually consist of nearly 13,000 similar dipole antennas. Once completed, the full size array will provide an entirely new view of the sky in the radio frequency range of 20 to 80 MHz. Until now this has been one of the least explored regions of the electromagnetic spectrum in radio astronomy. (ScienceOnLine)

**

WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICA UPDATING REPEATER DATA

South Africa is bringing its repeater information database up to date. It began the process on Saturday, September 19th at the repeater frequency planning meeting where Zed-S-4-P-R agreed to undertake

establishing a committee aimed at bringing all of that nations repeater data up to date.

As part of that process, all clubs and repeater coordinators in South Africa are requested to bring the details currently on the South Africa Radio League website up-to-date before September 30th. On the 30th the repeater pages will be removed and a process will be started to correlate frequencies and data with licenses. The South African Radio League says that more details will be made available on how the process will develop after these first steps have been completed. (SARL)

**

ON THE AIR: KL50 CELEBRATES ALASKA DAY OCTOBER 18 -19

On the air, listen out on October 18th and 19th for the call KL5O. It will be on the air celebrating as a special events station in celebration of the 2009 Alaska Day. Operation will be on 160 through 10 meters, including the WARC bands using phone, CW and RTTY. Operation will be scheduled to facilitate working North American stations, though all stations worldwide are encouraged to participate. Also, Alaska state QSO credit for the ARRL Year of the QSO Party award starts with the KL5O special event. QSL's will be available via Logbook to the World and eQSL as well as traditional cards. More information is on the web at www.kl5o.com. (Press release)

**

ON THE AIR: GB70GB CELEBRATES THE GREAT BADDOW ON OCTOBER 3

GB70GB is a Special Special Event callsign taking to the air on Saturday October 3rd. This to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the opening of the Research Center at Great Baddow. That was originally Marconi's Research Laboratories; and later on home to famous staff including Spycatcher author Peter Wright and later to Hovercraft inventor Chris Cockrell. More details of HF operation and its frequencies will be announced closer to the event at www.g0mwt.org.uk (Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society)

**

THE CONTEST CORNER: SCANDINIVIAN ACTIVITY CW SEPT 10 - 20

In contest news, the 51st Scandinavian Activity Contest CW leg takes place on between 1200 UTC on September 19th and 1200 UTC on the 20th. In use will be 80, 40 20, 15 and 10 meters with the contest exchange being a signal report and serial number. Details can be found on-line at www.qrq.se/sac.

And the European P-S-K Club invites amateurs all over the world to participate in the CIS DX QPSK63 Contest. Its also on September 19th and 20th and is strictly a QPSK63 contest now with no other modes are allowed. The maximum output power is 100 watts. All the information can be found at www.cisdx.srars.org. (Southgate)

**

DX

In DX, HA0NAR will be heading to western Africa in early 2010. He plans to be there at the end of January through the end of February with operation from Senegal as 6W stroke HA0NAR and Guinea-Bissau using the call J5NAR. More details on this one are promised in the near future.

And AA8YH is returning to Tunisia on November 16th for 5 weeks. He plans to be active on CW on the weekends from 3V8SS and is willing to accept skeds from "QRP" stations, either CW or SSB. They can contact him via his E-mail address listed on QRZ.com.

VK2CCC will be on the air from Vanuatu with a yet to be announced callsign from October 30th to November 5th. Activity will be "part time", but mainly on 160 and 80 meters CW. QSL via VK2CC, either via the bureau or direct.

G7COD, will once again be active as 8Q7AK from Embudu Island between October 12th and the 25th. His operation will be on 80 through 12 meters including the WARC bands. QSL via his home call.

And reports indicate that Lionel, F5PSA, is active as TJ3SL from the Cameroon. His length of stay is unknown at this time but he's reportedly on 20 through 10 meters using SSB. QSL via his home callsign as well.

Lastly, AA3B, will once again be active from Antigua as V26K between November 26th and December 1st. This will be an all CW operation on the contest HF bands only. Please QSL via AA3B.

(Above from various DXC news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: WIKIPEDIA TO COLOR CODE TEXT

And finally this week, if you have ever wondered if something you read on the World Wide Web is accurate, one popular website is about to help in that area. Burt Hicks has more:

--

Anyone who has used the Internet is familiar with the free, open-access on-line encyclopedia called Wikipedia dot com. Starting this fall an optional feature on Wikipedia called "WikiTrust" will color code every word of the on-line encyclopedia based on the reliability of its author and the length of time it has persisted on the page.

WikiTrust assigns a color code to newly edited text using an algorithm that calculates author reputation from the lifespan of their past contributions. It's based on the concept that the longer information persists on the page, the more accurate it's likely to be. Text from questionable sources starts out with a bright orange background, while

text from trusted authors gets a lighter shade. As more people view and edit the new text, it gradually gains more "trust" and turns from orange to what's normal for a given page.

More than 60 million people visit Wikipedia each month to searching its 12 million pages in 260 languages. But despite its popularity, Wikipedia has long suffered criticism from those who say it's not reliable. Critics say that because anyone can contribute, the site is subject to vandalism, bias and misinformation. And as all edits are anonymous, there's no easy way to separate credible information from fake content created by vandals. The operators of Wikipedia hope that WikiTrust will counter those who find fault with the on-line reference source. --

No date yet for when Wiki Trust will be available on-line. (The Wiki Follower Online News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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434. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-30 21:05:38 UTC
From: Tony VE6MVP <tony@REMOVEve6mvp.com>
Message-ID: <2ah7c59ombfnrp7cq4fs05mors3d00b1f0@4ax.com>
Source record: 1844

On Mon, 14 Sep 2009 19:53:42 EDT, "Richard Crowley"
<rcrowley@xp7rt.net> wrote:

>Note that the requirements for the newer operating systems (post-
>XP) are significantly higher for application authors

In what sense?

> so don't be
>too surprised if some favorite apps take longer to make the upgrade.
>Also not unusual for developers to just throw in the towel at the
>sight of the newer requirements.

Some software devs also didn't move with increased security
requirements. Microsoft finally started to clamp down in Windows
Vista. In my opinion long overdue. And Vista got blamed for this.
These standards predate Windows 2000.

For example

1) requiring that folks run their apps as administrators

1) software devs running as a regular user to locate all such
problems.

2) installing apps to \Program Files is obviously fine but put all
your data files in the users Application Data

3) Installing the software in it's own folder on the root of C drive
with a mixture of exes, dlls and data files shouldn't be done either.

Tony (software developer)

435. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-09-30 21:25:54 UTC
From: Richard Crowley <rcrowley@xp7rt.net>
Message-ID: <7ii0mkF30v6h8U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1845

"Tony VE6MVP" wrote ...
> "Richard Crowley" wrote:
>>Note that the requirements for the newer operating systems (post-
>>XP) are significantly higher for application authors
>
> In what sense?

The number of hardware and software products that got left by
the wayside by Vista is unprecedented in MS Windows history.
That is one of the BIG reasons for the continued popularity of XP.

>> so don't be
>>too surprised if some favorite apps take longer to make the upgrade.
>>Also not unusual for developers to just throw in the towel at the
>>sight of the newer requirements.
>
> Some software devs also didn't move with increased security
> requirements. Microsoft finally started to clamp down in Windows
> Vista. In my opinion long overdue. And Vista got blamed for this.
> These standards predate Windows 2000.
>
> For example
>
> 1) requiring that folks run their apps as administrators
>
> 1) software devs running as a regular user to locate all such
> problems.
>
> 2) installing apps to \Program Files is obviously fine but put all
> your data files in the users Application Data
>
> 3) Installing the software in it's own folder on the root of C drive
> with a mixture of exes, dlls and data files shouldn't be done either.

No argument at all. I'm both a software developer AND someone
who owns/maintains ~100 windows systems in semi-public use in
several classrooms, so I see it from both ends.

I'm just saying that MS finally raised the bar and enforced it this time
(for better or for worse) and lots of programmers and hardware
vendors made the decision that the cost/benefit ratio was no longer
in their favor. Just saying.

Richard KE6GKP

436. Re: Vista, Win 7

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-01 05:50:49 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <B_qdnbGorfywjFnXnZ2dnUVZ_tydnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1846

Tony VE6MVP wrote:
> Some software devs also didn't move with increased security
> requirements. Microsoft finally started to clamp down in Windows
> Vista. In my opinion long overdue. And Vista got blamed for this.
> These standards predate Windows 2000.
>
> For example
>
> 1) requiring that folks run their apps as administrators

Some game companies figured out that sophisticated users were able to use the "limited user" boundary as a lever to pry open copy-protection features, and therefore demanded that their software run only in Administrator accounts.

Professional system administrators actually welcomed the change, since it meant that their lusers couldn't play games with company property, and that ID-ten-T problems went down proportionately. ;-)

Bill, W1AC

437. PAQSO Party Announcement

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-01 17:22:01 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <e4c468fd-08b8-4764-9a56-1b45e123ca83@c3g2000yqd.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1847
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info

The Nittany ARC announces the 52nd annual Pennsylvania QSO Party on October 10 and 11, 2009.

Interested amateurs are invited to participate in our yearly event, which is one of the premiere state QSO Parties. We're the Friendly QSO Party

Classes will be CW, RTTY, PSK and Voice - SSB and FM.

Go here for rules, entry forms and details

Website: http://www.nittany-arc.net/paqso.html

We're a little different - and we like it that way.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

438. The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-01 21:12:25 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091001201405.43340B3580F@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1848
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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October 1, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

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- + Operating: The 2010 ARRL Handbook: Our Biggest -- and Best -- Ever!- +
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Humanitarian Award
- + Public Service: Ham Appointed Chief of Army MARS
- + Operating: International Reply Coupons (IRCs): Out with the Old, In
with the New
- + On the Air: 4U1UN Celebrates UN General Assembly with Special Event
- Solar Update
- This Week on the Radio

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

Welcome to the HTML ARRL Letter

The ARRL Letter <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> has been
distributed via e-mail since January 1996, when the Internet was young
and full of possibilities. One of those possibilities -- our weekly
digest of Amateur Radio news -- has not changed all that much in
13-plus years. Until now.

The conversion to HTML is part of the effort to make all ARRL
e-publications more attractive and easier to read -- and more 21st
century.

In response to what ARRL members have told us, we have expanded the
scope of The ARRL Letter. You'll find more of a variety of news and
information -- the news, some enhanced technical content and other
features we think you'll enjoy.

For those who prefer to receive The ARRL Letter in text format, that
option remains available.
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Please let us know what you think of The ARRL Letter by sending ARRL News Editor and ARRL Letter author S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, an e-mail <k1sfa@arrl.org>. -- Joel P. Kleinman, N1BKE, Managing Editor, QST

==> + REGULATORY: ARRL BOARD ADOPTS GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE USE OF AMATEUR RADIO

On Friday, September 25, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted guidelines on the appropriate use of Amateur Radio on behalf of commercial, non-profit and government entities, as well as recommendations for additional steps to be taken by the ARRL to educate radio amateurs and others on how to prepare and train for public service and emergency communications while complying with the current FCC Rules.

At its meeting in July 2009, the ARRL Board created an ad-hoc committee to study the issue and prepare suggested guidelines. The committee submitted its report to the ARRL Executive Committee, which reviewed and revised the document. After additional discussion among Board members by electronic mail and teleconference, the Executive Committee submitted the document to the Board for formal adoption.

Entitled The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf>, the document offers guidelines to assist radio amateurs and anyone wishing to utilize the capabilities of Amateur Radio in understanding the FCC Rules that prohibit communications in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. While the FCC Rules in this regard have not changed in many years, there has been increasing discussion of the issue as growing numbers of employers and non-amateur organizations recognize the value of Amateur Radio as an emergency communications resource and encourage their employees to obtain amateur licenses. Also included are guidelines for evaluating the appropriateness of Amateur Radio volunteers providing communications services to commercial enterprises and other entities for which other communications systems are available.

"The guidelines are not intended to be the last word on the subject, and surely will not be," observed ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and chair of the ad-hoc committee. "The report includes several recommendations for additional steps that the ARRL needs to take to help amateurs and the organizations we serve to better understand the Rules and to ensure that what we do to prepare to be of service in emergencies is consistent with the current Rules."

==> + OPERATING: THE 2010 ARRL HANDBOOK: OUR BIGGEST -- AND BEST -- EVER!
With more than 60 authors and reviewers contributing over 70 percent of new or completely revised content, The 2010 ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-HB2010#top> is the biggest Handbook ever. Since it was first published in 1926, the Handbook has been a mainstay for the radio electronics experimenter. A core resource for radio amateurs, hobbyists, engineers and scientists,

the Handbook is the single most authoritative reference on practical communications topics. It is both reference book and tutorial, woven together with practical applications and solutions. The 2010 Handbook -- the 87th edition -- is a useful introduction to radio communication, and featuring the most current material on electronics and Amateur Radio.

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=NO-HB2010#top> For 2010, The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications -- with more than 1250 pages -- has been reorganized into five major sections, making it easier than ever to find exactly what you are searching for: Fundamental Theory, Practical Design and Principles, Antenna Systems and Radio Propagation, Equipment Construction and Maintenance, and Station Assembly and Management. "Each chapter has been designed to be either an 'encyclopedia' (providing descriptive overviews of current practices and technology) or 'practical handbook' (focusing on techniques, designs and projects)," Handbook Co-editor H. Ward Silver, N0AX, explained. "In either case, Co-editor Mark Wilson, K1RO, and I tried to ensure that there was enough introductory material to get the newcomer started, as well as plenty of in-depth discussion the experienced amateur will expect." For a closer look inside the 2010 Handbook, click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/30/11102/>.

==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: NOMINATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2009 ARRL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Nominations are open for the 2009 ARRL International Humanitarian Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster. To learn more about the ARRL International Humanitarian Award, including submission criteria, click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/28/11098/?nc=1>.

Product Review: The ICOM IC-7600 HF and 6 Meter Transceiver

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6N2jgzlbIk> Get a "first look" at the ICOM IC-7600 HF and 6 meter transceiver! Featured in the November 2009 QST Product Review, this rig -- reviewed by NCJ Managing Editor Rick Lindquist, WW3DE (ex-N1RL), and shown in this video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6N2jgzlbIk> by ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM -- represents an integration of ICOM's popular PROIII and the IC-7700/7800 transceivers, both in style, features and capability. Check it out!
==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM APPOINTED CHIEF OF ARMY MARS

On September 25, veteran Army communicator Jim Griffin, KE7LJA, became Chief of the Army Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS <http://www.netcom.army.mil/mars/>). Major General Susan Lawrence,

Commanding General of the 9th Signal Command (Army), named Griffin to succeed Stuart Carter; Carter has held the Chief's post since December 2006. MARS, the Defense Department-sponsored organization of Amateur Radio operators who volunteer for communications support in emergencies, is a component of the 9th SC(A). As a uniformed member of the Signal Corps and subsequently a civil servant, Griffin has amassed 52 years in government service. Before Friday's appointment, he served for two years as Deputy Chief of Army MARS, tasked with the responsibility for construction of its new gateway communications station at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. For more information, click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/26/11093/?nc=1>.

==> + OPERATING: INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS (IRCS): OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

<http://www.upu.int/news_centre/2008/en/2008-08-08_irc.shtml>It is now time to start dumping your old International Reply Coupons (IRCs). The "Beijing Model No 2 <http://www.dailydx.com/images/IRC-2007-100.jpg>" must be redeemed before December 31, 2009. The new IRC -- the Nairobi Model IRC <http://www.dailydx.com/images/2008-08-08_irc.jpg> -- has been available in the US since September 10 and elsewhere since July; the price is $2.10 each in the US. The Nairobi Model is due to expire in 2013. For more information, click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/30/11103/?nc=1>. Thanks to The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com/> for the information.

==> + ON THE AIR: 4U1UN CELEBRATES UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH SPECIAL EVENT

To celebrate the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations <http://www.un.org/ga/>, 4U1UN <http://www.qrz.com/callsign.html?callsign=4u1un> -- the Amateur Radio station at the UN -- began operating as 4U64UN <http://www.qrz.com/callsign.html?callsign=4U64UN> on September 22. According to The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com/>, 4U64UN will be on the air for 64 days on all bands and modes. QSL via Logbook of The World (LoTW <http://www.arrl.org/lotw>) or direct to Herbert Aeby, HB9BOU. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW once the event is over. QSL cards will be mailed out starting in December 2009.

+ "Hints and Kinks"

Do you have an idea or a simple project that has improved your operating? Maybe you've taken something commonly found around the home and developed a ham radio use for it? Why not share your hints with fellow hams in "Hints and Kinks," a monthly column in QST <http://www.arrl.org/qst>. If we publish your hint, you will receive $20. Send your hints via e-mail <h&k@arrl.org> or to ARRL Headquarters, Attn: "Hints and Kinks," 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Please include your name, call sign, complete mailing address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address.

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Much have I travell'd in the realms of gold <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/chapmanshomer.html>" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot 1026 has faded and 1027 is about to disappear over the Sun's western horizon. The strange thing is that 1027 is still visible as a bright magnetic disturbance when viewed on the STEREO Web site <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov>, but it apparently isn't still visible as a sunspot. The equinox, significant sunspot activity and low geomagnetic indices made for good conditions this week. The 3-month moving average of sunspot numbers -- now including September's data -- is the same as last month's 3-month average, made up from sunspot numbers from June through August. It seems that both June and September had identical average sunspot numbers, so for the last reading, the June data was dropped and the September data was added, and the same 3-month average of 4.0 is the result! We will discuss this more in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, October 2. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' On First Looking into Chapman's Homer.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

This week, the California QSO Party and the Oceania DX

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/> Contest are October 3-4. The Fall 432 MHz Sprint is October 7. Next week, the ARRL EME Contest is October 10-11. There's an NCCC Sprint October 9 and the YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest is October 9-11. The 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint and the FISTS Fall Sprint are both October 10. On October 10-11, check out the Pennsylvania QSO Party, the Arizona QSO Party and the Oceania DX Contest (CW). The North American Sprint (RTTY), the SKCC Weekend Sprint and the UBA ON Contest (SSB) are October 11. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is October 14. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

ARRL Continuing Education Course Registration

Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education

Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

439. Re: The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-06 16:22:39 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <1d58f65d-a108-4136-bfa9-5bcc85b46d12@e18g2000vbe.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1849
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy

On Oct 1, 5:12 pm, "ARRL Web site" <memberl...@www.arrl.org> wrote:

> => + REGULATORY: ARRL BOARD ADOPTS GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
> THE APPROPRIATE USE OF AMATEUR RADIO
>
> On Friday, September 25, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted guidelines
> on the appropriate use of Amateur Radio on behalf of commercial,
> non-profit and government entities

When I first glanced at this, I thought that it was going to be another promotional piece expounding emergency services. But I figured I'd go to the pdf, and was pleasantly surprised. The ARRL has got this one absolutely right.

The emergency comms people had at some point gotten the wrong idea about amateur participation in emergencies, and were applying their structure to the process. Many of the issues that were pointed out in the pdf file were experienced first hand by myself and others: the "Everything we do is by definition an emergency, so if we're operating, it's an emergency and you have to relinquish your communication devices to us". We don't really need licenses, since what we are doing is emergency work". And thanks, it's been great, but since our employees all have technician licenses now, we don't need you any more - but we still have to have your repeater.". That isn't conjecture - that's from actual conversations (the last was paraphrased - it was more like "Once we have all our guys licensed, we won't have to bother you guys any more)

The success of amateur radio in recent emergency situations has been a great thing, but many of the groups we have worked with have misunderstood the cause for that success. We have been a big help because of the non-organized aspect of our operations, and the lack of structure inherent in our hobby. The groups we are working with are by necessity highly structured, and everything has a process and hierarchy imposed on it.

What has happened is that after seeing the communications success that we have had, those in the services that we have helped have come to the conclusion that if we can only have some of that structure imposed on us, we will just become better. That is where some of the friction started to develop. Having to give the Red Cross our financial information, nor was the "Unpaid Volunteer" position where part of the Amateur's duties would be sweeping the floor or taking out the trash.

So Kudos to the ARRL for seeing the issues brought up as the EC folks started to press a little to hard on the service.

-73 de Mike N3LI -

440. Re: The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-06 19:35:45 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7j1kg4F338bnfU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1850

Mike Coslo wrote:

> What has happened is that after seeing the communications success that
> we have had, those in the services that we have helped have come to
> the conclusion that if we can only have some of that structure imposed
> on us, we will just become better. That is where some of the friction
> started to develop. Having to give the Red Cross our financial
> information, nor was the "Unpaid Volunteer" position where part of the
> Amateur's duties would be sweeping the floor or taking out the trash.

I really don't think this issue is related to structure or a desire to impose it on hams. I think it's a case of Emergency Managers and other responders noticing that ham radio is a valuable resource and trying to take advantage of it. One of the reasons that they're inclined to bypass working with local radio clubs is the issue you cite -- hams insist on being communicators and bristle at any suggestion that they might have to perform any other function during an operation or bow to any authority other than their own.

It's certainly possible to forge a solid relationship between organized hams and local emergency management; there are many examples. But there are also cases in which the hams have become so elitist that the people who are paid to do the planning conclude that they must figure out how to take advantage of the technology without having to deal with the local hams. I'm not implying that this makes it somehow right, but we've brought some of this on ourselves.

And by the way, you've never given the Red Cross any financial information. I presume that you're referring to the flap about background checks, and while there was indeed an issue with the wording on the web site, and there's blame to be assigned on both sides, the Red Cross has never had the slightest bit of interest in your financial information. Whether you've been convicted of a crime, yes. But not how much money you make.

> So Kudos to the ARRL for seeing the issues brought up as the EC folks
> started to press a little to hard on the service.

I agree that the ARRL deserves credit for recognizing a potentially huge issue and providing guidance on how to react to it. For example, I continue to be distressed when I see cases in which people are required to obtain a ham radio license as a condition of employment. While this may in a few cases result in new hams entering the hobby, there is an associated risk that, in my opinion, more than offsets the tiny influx of new hams.

Sometimes success does not breed more success.

73, Steve KB9X

441. Re: The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-06 22:54:04 UTC
From: "Paul W. Schleck" <pschleck@oasis.novia.net>
Message-ID: <4acbb4f8$0$270$540ea2cf@novia.net>
Source record: 1751

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
Hash: SHA1

In <7j1kg4F338bnfU1@mid.individual.net> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> writes:

[...]

>And by the way, you've never given the Red Cross any financial
>information. I presume that you're referring to the flap about
>background checks, and while there was indeed an issue with the wording
>on the web site, and there's blame to be assigned on both sides, the Red
>Cross has never had the slightest bit of interest in your financial
>information. Whether you've been convicted of a crime, yes. But not
>how much money you make.

The actual release form that amateur radio volunteers were asked to sign
included consent for credit checks and mode of living checks, in
addition to criminal background checks. The ARRL was concerned enough
about this to release a position statement cautioning its members to be
careful what they sign:

http://www.arrl.org/announce/ARRL-ARC-bg-check.html

Also, it's generally considered very good advice that one should never
rely merely on vague oral assurances by any party, even the Red Cross,
that contradict the terms of the actual written contract. In the event
of any dispute, it is virtually certain that the terms of the actual
written contract are what will determine the resolution.

If the Red Cross never had any intention of investigating the financial
background of its volunteers, why did it announce a change of policy
(see footnote [1] in the link above)?

If the Red Cross presently has no intention of investigating the
financial background of its volunteers, it should have no problem
updating the written consent form that volunteers are asked to sign.

Let me emphasize that I do not believe that the Red Cross has ulterior
motives or is a dishonorable organization. Rather, that I think that
this matter was badly handled, and volunteers should hesitate to sign
sweeping consent forms that could in principle be used to hand over
significant amounts of private personal information without clearly
defined scopes and purposes stated in writing, as well as credible
expectations that the personal information would be handled with
appropriate security and privacy safeguards.

- --
73, Paul W. Schleck, K3FU
pschleck@novia.net
http://www.novia.net/~pschleck/
Finger pschleck@novia.net for PGP Public Key

-----BEGIN PGP SIGNATURE-----
Version: GnuPG v1.4.5 (SunOS)

iD8DBQFKy7TP6Pj0az779o4RAqdFAJ93gyE2VaW73T8xF9CmQ7BLopFwvQCeJk0D
lHbNU+glI2pTbDjEgblCSl0=
=LzQH
-----END PGP SIGNATURE-----

442. Re: The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-06 23:49:04 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7j23b5F33mierU1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1752

Paul W. Schleck wrote:
> -----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
> Hash: SHA1
>
> In <7j1kg4F338bnfU1@mid.individual.net> Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com> writes:
>
> [...]
>
>> And by the way, you've never given the Red Cross any financial
>> information. I presume that you're referring to the flap about
>> background checks, and while there was indeed an issue with the wording
>> on the web site, and there's blame to be assigned on both sides, the Red
>> Cross has never had the slightest bit of interest in your financial
>> information. Whether you've been convicted of a crime, yes. But not
>> how much money you make.
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> The actual release form that amateur radio volunteers were asked to sign
> included consent for credit checks and mode of living checks, in
> addition to criminal background checks. The ARRL was concerned enough
> about this to release a position statement cautioning its members to be
> careful what they sign:
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> http://www.arrl.org/announce/ARRL-ARC-bg-check.html
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> Also, it's generally considered very good advice that one should never
> rely merely on vague oral assurances by any party, even the Red Cross,
> that contradict the terms of the actual written contract. In the event
> of any dispute, it is virtually certain that the terms of the actual
> written contract are what will determine the resolution.
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> If the Red Cross never had any intention of investigating the financial
> background of its volunteers, why did it announce a change of policy
> (see footnote [1] in the link above)?
>
> If the Red Cross presently has no intention of investigating the
> financial background of its volunteers, it should have no problem
> updating the written consent form that volunteers are asked to sign.
>
> Let me emphasize that I do not believe that the Red Cross has ulterior
> motives or is a dishonorable organization. Rather, that I think that
> this matter was badly handled, and volunteers should hesitate to sign
> sweeping consent forms that could in principle be used to hand over
> significant amounts of private personal information without clearly
> defined scopes and purposes stated in writing, as well as credible

> expectations that the personal information would be handled with
> appropriate security and privacy safeguards.

Paul, just let me say that we are both correct on this issue.

Yes, the release form on the web site was unduly broad.

Yes, it's a good idea to beware of what you sign.

And no, the Red Cross did not get financial information, and has no interest in that aspect, in spite of what it said on the release form that people were asked to agree to on the web site.

The whole thing was an unfortunate series of badly handled communications and personality conflicts between individuals that resulted in significant damage to the relationship between ARRL and the Red Cross. This damage is effectively permanent and a real shame.

73, Steve KB9X

443. Re: The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-07 13:05:46 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <4a0dffe4-743c-4262-a828-aeca8803d934@m18g2000vbs.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1753

On Oct 6, 3:35 pm, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> Mike Coslo wrote:
> > What has happened is that after seeing the communications success that
> > we have had, those in the services that we have helped have come to
> > the conclusion that if we can only have some of that structure imposed
> > on us, we will just become better.

<snip

> I really don't think this issue is related to structure or a desire to
> impose it on hams. I think it's a case of Emergency Managers and other
> responders noticing that ham radio is a valuable resource and trying to
> take advantage of it.

Of course. I think that in many cases, problems have arisen when in
the process of taking advantage, toes have been stepped on. It's like
a guest coming into your house and demanding that you repaint the
walls and install new tile. Aside from the analogies. I have always
held that the amateur radio comms work because they don't have much
structure. That being said, it's what they do and understand.

> One of the reasons that they're inclined to
> bypass working with local radio clubs is the issue you cite -- hams
> insist on being communicators and bristle at any suggestion that they
> might have to perform any other function during an operation or bow to
> any authority other than their own.

But that is what we are there to do - communicate. Emergency
Communication outfits presumably have people who clean up and fix the
toilets during non-emergency times, I hope. And of course we bow to
authority. But if the authority is telling me to clean the commodes,
I'll do it, and then that will be the last time I volunteer.

> It's certainly possible to forge a solid relationship between organized
> hams and local emergency management; there are many examples. But ther
e
> are also cases in which the hams have become so elitist that the people
> who are paid to do the planning conclude that they must figure out how
> to take advantage of the technology without having to deal with the
> local hams. I'm not implying that this makes it somehow right, but
> we've brought some of this on ourselves.

The problem is that there are several facets of Ham radio. In our own
area. We were told that we would have to give up our repeater during
emergency operations.

The Ham who spent over 10 thousand dollars putting together a repeater system that could catch a 300 mw HT from anywhere in our mountainous county bristled indeed. For you see, we wee told what we were going to do. I don't think that he is being elitist, and I know that there is no chance at all that he will build another. And not one of the Emergency Comm Hams has the technical ability to do anything like it.

And that is what I think is a big part of the issue. We have people who are coming on a bit strong. Those meetings we had resembled a visit from the local government declaring eminent domain. You can't do that with amateur volunteers who are sometimes investing a lot of their own personal money and resources. They are volunteers. There are Hams who are inherently very interested in emcomm, and they should form the core of the ARS involvement. But until we get past the idea that Emergency workers don't need licenses, or that they can't use their Ham radios as a back channel, and that they really shouldn't get too heavy handed about using expensive resources that they are guests on, we can avoid a lot of unneeded strife. And the emergency workers are guests on our repeaters. Just like I'm a guest on our local repeater.

> And by the way, you've never given the Red Cross any financial
> information. I presume that you're referring to the flap about
> background checks, and while there was indeed an issue with the wording
> on the web site, and there's blame to be assigned on both sides, the Red
> Cross has never had the slightest bit of interest in your financial
> information. Whether you've been convicted of a crime, yes. But not
> how much money you make.

Not how much money I make, but how I spend it. The ARRL certainly seemed to have a concern about that, and as for blame, I think it is prudent to question something that you read. If it was a typo, it was good to get it cleared up. If not, well we should know, I think. I had read of the financial checks before, and the issue was that people who had close contact with victims might steal money from them.

444. Re: The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-08 00:18:29 UTC
From: Tom Horne <hornetd@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <027bb489-df51-4a45-9883-a1f403991a77@31g2000vbf.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1754

```
On Oct 6, 7:49 pm, Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> wrote:
> Paul W. Schleck wrote:
> > -----BEGIN PGP SIGNED MESSAGE-----
> > Hash: SHA1
>
> > In <7j1kg4F338bn...@mid.individual.net> Steve Bonine <s...@pobox.com> w
rites:
>
> > [...]
>
> >> And by the way, you've never given theRedCrossany financial
> >> information. I presume that you're referring to the flap about
> >> background checks, and while there was indeed an issue with the wordin
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> >> on the web site, and there's blame to be assigned on both sides, theRe
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> >>Crosshas never had the slightest bit of interest in your financial
> >> information. Whether you've been convicted of a crime, yes. But
not
> >> how much money you make.
>
> > The actual release form that amateur radio volunteers were asked to sig
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> > included consent for credit checks and mode of living checks, in
> > addition to criminal background checks. The ARRL was concerned enoug
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> > about this to release a position statement cautioning its members to be
> > careful what they sign:
>
> >http://www.arrl.org/announce/ARRL-ARC-bg-check.html
>
> > Also, it's generally considered very good advice that one should never
> > rely merely on vague oral assurances by any party, even theRedCross,
> > that contradict the terms of the actual written contract. In the eve
nt
> > of any dispute, it is virtually certain that the terms of the actual
> > written contract are what will determine the resolution.
>
> > If theRedCrossnever had any intention of investigating the financial
> > background of its volunteers, why did it announce a change of policy
> > (see footnote [1] in the link above)?
>
> > If theRedCrosspresently has no intention of investigating the
> > financial background of its volunteers, it should have no problem
```

> > updating the written consent form that volunteers are asked to sign.
>
> > Let me emphasize that I do not believe that theRedCrosshas ulterior
> > motives or is a dishonorable organization. Rather, that I think that
> > this matter was badly handled, and volunteers should hesitate to sign
> > sweeping consent forms that could in principle be used to hand over
> > significant amounts of private personal information without clearly
> > defined scopes and purposes stated in writing, as well as credible
> > expectations that the personal information would be handled with
> > appropriate security and privacy safeguards.
>
> Paul, just let me say that we are both correct on this issue.
>
> Yes, the release form on the web site was unduly broad.
>
> Yes, it's a good idea to beware of what you sign.
>
> And no, theRedCrossdid not get financial information, and has no
> interest in that aspect, in spite of what it said on the release form
> that people were asked to agree to on the web site.
>
> The whole thing was an unfortunate series of badly handled
> communications and personality conflicts between individuals that
> resulted in significant damage to the relationship between ARRL and theRe
dCross. This damage is effectively permanent and a real shame.
>
> 73, Steve KB9X

Steve

You write as if you have inside knowledge about what went on but it is plain you are not willing to share it. I will therefore have to go with the motto "by there fruit you shall know them." The Red Cross asked for permission to do checks on the finances and mode of living of it's volunteers, including the volunteers of other organizations that work with them which would include the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), and a lot of ARES folks balked. The Red Cross then said it was only conducting criminal background checks. The contractor who is performing the background investigations then changed the form that was being used to one that continues to give permission for the contractor to conduct Mode of Living checks on those that sign but is not worded as forthrightly as the form that raised the issue in the first place but only a lawyer is likely to be able to discern that fact. In spite of those facts you take the position that the American Radio Relay League is partly responsible for the tension that causes. I don't get it. What ARRL acts or omissions justify your taking that position. Do you believe it was wrong for the ARRL to warn it's membership about the consequences of signing that form? Do you think it is wrong of the League to point out that the new form continues to give permission for a type of background check that the Red Cross has stated it is not doing? Do

you think that the Red Cross is entirely blameless in failing to supervise it's contractors interactions with Red Cross and Assisting Agency volunteers? Let me put the question more generally. What should the League have done differently? What could we as ARES volunteers do to continue to be of service without inviting an invasion of our privacy by this private firm that is in the business of gathering and selling information about individuals to anyone that they lawfully can. I have read elsewhere that a persons reputation can be visualized as a feather stuffed pillow. Some information can have the same effect as taking that pillow up to the top of a high rise building, ripping it open, and throwing it up in a strong wind. Mind you the information need not be true or even substantially true to make the damage impossible to ever repair. In fact a statement by a single malicious or damnably careless utterance one of the persons that the contractor interviews could make your life a living hell. By signing the form you have undoubtedly agreed to hold the contractor harmless for the misstatements or outright lies they are told by others. Why would I or anyone else knowingly agree to that possibility.

--
Tom Horne, W3TDH

445. The ARRL Letter for October 8, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-08 19:50:06 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091008190300.D233AAC5821@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1755
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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October 8, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

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- + FCC Enforcement: FCC Fines California Firm $4000 for Operating on
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- Events: ARRL Gears Up for Fourth Annual On-Line Auction
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- + Amateur Radio and Scouting: Scouting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA)
- Solar Update
- This Week on the Radio
- + ARRL Recognizes: Paul Danzer, N1II, Wins September QST Cover Plaque
Award
- Operating: Angola Operation Approved for DXCC Credit
- + Amateur Radio in Space: Astronaut Fernando "Frank" Caldeiro, KE4RFI
(SK)

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + REGULATORY: COUNTERPART BILL TO HR 2160 INTRODUCED IN SENATE

On Tuesday, October 6, Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), along with
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), introduced Senate Bill 1755
<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/SenateBill1755.pdf>, The Amateur Radio
Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009. Similar to HR 2160
<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&doc
id=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>
-- also called The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement
Act of 2009 -- that was introduced
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<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1> this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX-18), the bill, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS <http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>) to undertake a study on emergency communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations."

"We are delighted to have the sponsorship of both the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee <http://hsgac.senate.gov/public/>, and especially to have the support of Senator Lieberman from the ARRL's home state," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The bill could not have a better pedigree. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/07/11127/?nc=1> for more information on S 1755."

==> + FCC ENFORCEMENT: FCC FINES CALIFORNIA FIRM $4000 FOR OPERATING ON AMATEUR FREQUENCIES

On September 28, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) to a California firm that the Commission maintains was using amateur frequencies to conduct business. According to the Commission, Shimmick Construction Company, Inc/Obayashi Corporation, Joint Venture ("Shimmick-Obayashi") -- licensees of stations WQER756, WQEN793, WQJI360 and WQKG818 -- apparently repeatedly violated Section 1.903(a) of the Commission's Rules "by failing to operate only in accordance with the rules applicable to their particular service as set forth in the Commission's Rules and with a valid authorization granted by the Commission." Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/06/11124/?nc=1> for more information.

==> EVENTS: ARRL GEARS UP FOR FOURTH ANNUAL ON-LINE AUCTION

The Fourth Annual ARRL On-Line Auction begins its preview week on Thursday, October 15. With more than 160 items up for bid -- and more being added every day -- this event promises to have something for just about everyone. The auction kicks off Thursday, October 22 and runs through Thursday, October 29 on the ARRL Web site. Proceeds from the auction benefit ARRL education programs including activities to license new hams, strengthen Amateur Radio's emergency service training, offer continuing technical and operating education, as well as create instructional materials. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/06/11125/?nc=1> to discover just what the ARRL Auction has in store for 2009.

==> + ARRL PUBLICATIONS: LOOK FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The November issue of QST <http://www.arrl.org/qst> is jam-packed with all sorts of news and information today's Amateur Radio operator needs. >From product reviews to construction projects to public service, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone.

A. Robert Patzlaff, W9JQT, takes a look at "The Rockless, a VFO Controlled Low Power Transceiver." In this article, Patzlaff builds on the Rock-Mite -- profiled in the April 2003 issue of QST <http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cg?id=103934&pub=qst> -- and modifies this basic CW transceiver to work with a variable frequency oscillator. Jean-Yves Morin, VE2MHZ, presents a "Removable Car Window Antenna with Cross Over Connector." Make your go-kit ready to go for any vehicle with this no-holes mounting arrangement.

With the cold wind blowing on the long winter nights this past January, Poul-Erik Karlshoj, OZ4UN, got to wondering about the LDE <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LDE>s he encountered while QSOing with a Spanish amateur. Read about his experience in "Observation of Long Delayed Echoes on 80 Meters." ARRL Education Project Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME, describes the newest program in the Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology in his article, "The 2009 Teachers Institute Introduces Advanced Satellite Workshop."

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, in his column "This Month in Contesting," discusses the "crown jewel" of W/VE contesting -- the ARRL November Sweepstakes! And now that the 2009-2010 Contest Season is in full swing, catch up on all the upcoming contest activity with this month's "Contest Corral."

If you read last week's ARRL Letter <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/index.html?issue=2009-10-01>, you saw the video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6N2jgzlbIk> featuring ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM introduce the ICOM IC-7600 HF and 6 meter transceiver. Now is your chance to get up close and personal with this rig. NCJ <http://www.arrl.org/ncj> Managing Editor Rick Lindquist, WW3DE (ex-N1RL), reviews the 7600, calling it "a superb synthesis of ICOM's popular PROIII and the IC-7700/7800 transceivers, both in styles, features and capability. Another winner!" Allison also provides an update to October's Product Review, the FlexRadio FLEX-3000.

Of course, the November issue includes the variety of columns you know and love: "Happenings," "Hints & Kinks," "The Doctor Is IN," "How's DX," "Eclectic Technology," "World Above 50 MHz," "Hamspeak" and more. Look for your November issue to arrive soon. QST is the official journal of ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio. QST is just one of the many benefits of ARRL membership <http://www.arrl.org/join>. To join or renew your ARRL membership, please visit the ARRL Web page <http://www.arrl.org/join>.

==> + INTERNATIONAL: OLDEST NATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MARKS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2010, the Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) -- the oldest national Amateur Radio society -- will celebrate its 100th anniversary. On March 11, 1910, the WIA had its beginnings when a group of wireless pioneers gathered at the Hotel Australia, Martin Place in Sydney. These early hams wanted to protect their interests and rights against what they considered to be harsh treatment by authorities -- and a high license fee. Chairman of the founding meeting, George Taylor, proposed "the formation of an institution amongst experimenters and enthusiasts in wireless for their mutual benefit." From that meeting, the Institute of Wireless Telegraphy of Australia -- later, the WIA -- was formed. Since its founding, the WIA has continued to protect and enhance the privileges of radio amateurs and to promote Amateur Radio in Australia and beyond. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/06/11121/?nc=1> for more information on the WIA's centennial celebration.

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/10/02/11109/?nc=1> covers the month of September.

==> DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the K3LR Multi-Multi Team <http://www.k3lr.com/> consumes more than 200 cups of coffee during a 48 hour contest?

==> + ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION: 2009 SECTION MANAGERS WORKSHOP: A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The Annual Section Manager (SM) Workshop -- held September 25-27 --

afforded 12 newly elected SMs (including three who began their first terms of office October 1) to visit ARRL Headquarters. During the extended weekend gathering, participants not only got to meet many Headquarters staff members, but also learned some of the ins and outs of how to be effective Section leaders and administrators. The primary purposes of the Workshop sessions were to share ideas and to provide basic administrative, management, leadership and motivational training. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/05/11119/?nc=1> for more information on the 2009 ARRL Section Managers workshop.

==> + AMATEUR RADIO AND SCOUTING: SCOUTING JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQIHdml8inU> October 17 and 18 will mark the 52nd worldwide Scouting Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). Held the third full weekend in October each year, this is the premier operating event for Amateur Radio and Scouting around the world. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/07/11122/> to join QEX Editor and Staff Liaison to the ARRL Ad Hoc Committee on Scouting Larry Wolfgang, WR1B, to find out ways to interest youth in Amateur Radio.

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Like the bright spots that move about the Sun <http://www.bartleby.com/126/12.html>" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sweet memories of the 11-day run of sunspots toward the end of last month are fading, and so far, the days of zero sunspots are at six, with the last sunspot seen on October 1. A peek at the latest STEREO images <http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/> shows two active areas in our Sun's southern hemisphere beyond our direct view, but it is hard to tell if these will emerge as sunspots when they appear over the eastern limb. A rough guess has the first one possibly emerging around October 10, with the second around a week later. Currently, the solar flux forecast shows flux values lower then 70 through October 15, then around 72 during the two-week period from October 16-30. The same NOAA/USAF forecast predicts the same very quiet geomagnetic conditions that we've seen for some time, with planetary A index around 5. Two very small increases are predicted for October 11-12 -- with an A index of 7 -- and October 24-25, with the A index at 8. Average sunspot numbers for the week dropped 15.3 points below the September 24-30 period, and the average daily solar flux for the week declined 2.2 points to 70.5. We'll also go over some e-mail about propagation via ground fog -- mentioned in last week's bulletin -- in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, October 9. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' To My Brother George <http://www.bartleby.com/126/12.html>.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

This week, the ARRL EME Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/eme.html> is October 10-11. There's an NCCC Sprint October 9 and the YLRL DX/NA YL Anniversary Contest is October 9-11. The 10-10 International 10-10 Day Sprint and the FISTS Fall Sprint are both October 10. On October 10-11, check out the Pennsylvania QSO Party, the Arizona QSO Party and the Oceania DX Contest (CW). The North American Sprint (RTTY), the SKCC Weekend Sprint and the UBA ON Contest (SSB) are October 11. The NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is October 14. Next week, look for the ARRL School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/SCR/> October 19-23. There's another NCCC Sprint October 16. The Iowa QSO Party, the Feld Hell Sprint and the Microwave Fall Sprint are October 17. On October 17-18, check out the New York QSO Party, JARTS WW RTTY Contest, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge, the Worked All Germany Contest and the W/VE Islands QSO Party. The Illinois QSO Party is October 18-19 and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is October 19. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> + ARRL RECOGNIZES: PAUL DANZER, N1II, WINS SEPTEMBER QST COVER PLAQUE AWARD

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for September is Paul Danzer, N1II, for his article "A Simple Transformer to Measure Your Antenna Current." Congratulations, Paul! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the October issue by Saturday, October 31.

==> OPERATING: HAMS FACE NEW RULES ON ONTARIO ROADWAYS

The Ministry of Transportation in Ontario, Canada announced on September 30 that Bill 118 <http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/bills-files/39_Parliament/Session1/b118ra.pdf> concerning distracted driving will take effect on October 26, 2009. According to Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC <http://www.rac.ca/>) Vice President for Public Relations Peter West, VE3HG, the new law makes it illegal for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or e-mail using handheld cell phones and other handheld communications and entertainment devices. Following a three-month period that begins October 26 where the focus will be on educating drivers, police will start issuing tickets on February 1, 2010 <http://news.ontario.ca/mto/en/2009/09/ban-on-hand-held-devices-starts-in-october.html>.
"All two-way radios in all vehicles -- with the exception of emergency responding vehicles -- must be hands-free in three years' time," he posted on the RAC's blog <http://racblog.wordpress.com/2009/09/30/new-rules-on-ontario-roadways/>.
"This news comes from the official government staffer who has been in communications with Radio Amateurs of Canada over the last year. At the end of the three-year exemption, all commercial, CB and Amateur Radio equipment used in moving vehicles by the vehicle operator must be hands-free in operation."

==> OPERATING: WEBINAR ON REMOTE CONTROL OPERATING PLANNED

With the growing limits imposed on hams due to antenna restrictions, interest is growing in operating amateur stations by remote control. With that in mind, Bob Arnold, N2JEU, one of the pioneers of Internet remote station control, is organizing an Internet-based live conference, or webinar, on the topic. The conference would feature a guest panel comprised of amateurs currently involved in remote operations, both at the operating and software levels. Interested hams could listen to the live audio stream and could ask questions via "text chat." Since he is presently organizing resources for this online event, Arnold is looking for feedback on what topics listeners would like to see addressed. He is also looking for information from people currently operating online remote stations. There is still room on the guest panel for additional participants. Authors of software that make remote operation possible are also asked to respond. If you would like

to participate either as a guest or a listener, please contact Arnold via e-mail <n2jeu@ralabs.com> or visit this Web site <http://www.n2jeu.net/> for any additional information on the conference as it becomes available.

==> OPERATING: ANGOLA OPERATION APPROVED FOR DXCC CREDIT

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the current Angola operation -- D2QMN -- has been approved for DXCC credit. "If you had cards that were recently rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org> to the ARRL DXCC Desk and you will be placed on the list for update," Moore said.

==> + AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: ASTRONAUT FERNANDO "FRANK" CALDEIRO, KE4RFI (SK)

NASA Astronaut Fernando "Frank" Caldeiro, KE4RFI, passed away on October 3 after a more than two year battle with a brain tumor. He was 51. Caldeiro was a member of the Astronaut Class of 1996 and most recently was assigned to the WB-57 High Altitude Research Program within the Aircraft Operations Division at Ellington Field in Houston. In that role, he directed the integration and conducted the operation of high-altitude atmospheric research experiments carried on board the NASA WB-57 aircraft. "Frank was a valued member of the astronaut corps and the Flight Crew Operations team," said NASA's Director of Flight Crew Operations Brent Jett. "He provided a wealth of experience and made significant contributions to the success of both the WB-57 project and the space shuttle program. He will be missed by all those who knew him at NASA. Our hearts go out to his family." Caldeiro was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but he considered New York City and Merritt Island, Florida, to be his hometowns. He is survived by his wife, the former Donna Marie Emero of Huntington Beach, California, and two daughters.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/>Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

446. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1678 - October 9 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-09 07:11:42 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091009000818.03b89f70@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1756
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1678 - October 9 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1678 with a release date of
Friday, October 9th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The rare call 4U1UN will come back on the
air for one week only this month with an all star cast at the mics and
keys. Also, ham radio assists in the wake of the Sumatra earthquake,
hams are safe on American Samoa following a Tsunami, a California
concrete hauling company faces a fine for operating in the two meter
ham band and a popular hamfest returns after an absence of 13 years.
Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1678
coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO CELEBRATION: 4U1UN ACTIVITY WEEK FROM NYC

4U1UN, the United Nations Headquarters station in New York City will
make a rare appearance on the air from October 19th to the 25th .
This, with an all star line-up of top gun DX'ers and contester's at the
controls of the famed station. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley,
KI7UP, has the details:

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The list of operators reads like a whose who in the worlds of
contesting and DX'ing. Names like Marti Laine, OH2BH, from
Finland,.Roger Western, G3SXW from the U-K. Kaz Watanabe, JK3GAD from
Japan and Gene Schumat, UA9AB, from Asiatic Russia, to mention only a
few. In all there will be about two dozen of the best of the best
bringing 4U1UN to life in celebration of 4U1UN Activity Week.

For those not aware, 4U1UN may be geographically located on Manhattan's
East side but as far as ham radio is concerned it is considered a DXCC
entity unto itself. It became rather rare after 911 when new security
measures were put in place. As a result its not often that 4U1UN takes
to the airwaves. In fact it has to be a special event such as this to
bring the station on. This is one of those rare occasions but as the
operators note security access to the building is heavily restricted.
None the less, the team says that it will do its best to make this rare
station available to all.

As to an operating schedule. Its going to be restricted to 12"00 to 04:00 UTC each day. That translates into 8 a.m. to midnight Eastern Daylight Time. All-night activity is planned for Friday the 23rd and Saturday the 24th of October. The 24th is United Nations Day.

Logs for 4U1UN will be uploaded to Logbook to the World after the operation is completed. All QSL requests go via HB9BOU.

And I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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In addition to the commemorative 4U1UN operation several of the team members will participate in the CQ World-Wide SSB Contest. They will be entering in the Two Transmitter or M2 category.

And this final note. Keep an ear open for the callsign 4U64UN to be active until mid-November. It will be on to celebrate the 64th annual UN General Assembly.

(NQ2G / LA5IIA, OH2BN, Southgate)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: MIDWAY ISLAND COMES ON THE AIR

And some late breaking DX news. A multi-national team of 18 operators will activate Midway Island at about the time this newscast goes on the air and is expected to continue through October 19th. They are signing K4M and will operate from Sand Island.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has authorized this amateur radio operation from this rare U.S. entity for only a 10 day period. This is the first amateur radio activity from Midway in almost 10 years. Midway Island ranks number 24 world-wide and number 13 in Europe on the DX Magazine's "Most Wanted List".

We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (OPDX)

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RADIO LAW: SENATE BILL INTRODUCED TO STUDY HAM RADIO EMCOMM

A companion bill to the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 was introduced in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, October 6 by Connecticut Democrat Joe Lieberman and Maine Republican Susan Collins.

Titled Senate Bill 1755, it carries the same name as the House measure introduced this past April by Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee. The bill, if passed, would direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications with an emphasis on the role that ham radio operators play.

S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations, and that performance must be given support at all levels of government; and protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable communications provided by such stations.

Introduction of S 1755 is the result of many months of groundwork laid by the American Radio Relay League and appears to be directly based on the basis and purpose of the service. This as outlined in Section 97.1 of the FCC rules. (ARRL)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAMS HELP IN THE AFTERMATH OF WEST SUMATRA QUAKE

A number of amateur radio stations are reportedly assisting in the aftermath of the earthquake in Western Sumatra. According to information supplied to the Southgate news, station YB5ZA is located in the Governor's office of West Sumatra province, and is operational in support of the disaster management command post. Its said to be are operating on 7.0650 MHz on 40 meters as well as on 145.500 MHz FM simplex. YB5ZA is reportedly also supporting a 2 meter repeater on the 146.260 in and 146.860 MHz out channel pair.

Another station involved in relief efforts is YB5ZDD. It is on the air using 7.065 MHz on SSB from the airport in Padang City. Lastly, YB1TY has established an iQSO gateway via iqso.orari.net to handle messaging related to disaster relief. All of these operations and possibly others are expected to be operational for some time. (Southgate, Various)

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RESCUE RADIO: HAMS SURVIVE KH8 TSUNAMI

And some good news about several hams living on American Samoa. Lee Wical, KH6BZF, in Hawaii has informed the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter that American Samoa Amateur Radio Association President Larry Gandy, AH8LG, his wife Uti, KH8FO and their family are safe and sound. This, after the tsunami that hit a week ago.

Larry is currently on solar power as the island power is spotty at best. Also, his shop in Pago Pago harbor did sustain some damage.

KH6BZF adds that KH8AA is reportedly safe as well. (KH6BZF)

**

RESTRUCTIRING: CANADIAN HAMS TO SHARE WITH MILITARY SYSTEM ON 70 CM

Industry Canada has informed Radio Amateurs of Canada that it has authorized the Department of National Defense to use a digital system called Enhanced Position Location Reporting System or EPLRS in the 430 to 450 MHz shared 70 centimeter band. The EPLRS system consists of mobile, fixed, transportable and airborne stations that use 5 MHz-wide

spread spectrum channels to provide strategic telemetry information for military platforms.

This authorization is on a no-protection, non-interference basis, which means that no new restrictions will be imposed on Canadian amateur operations in this band as a result. Industry Canada says that there is a slight chance of minor interference to amateur radio systems. Typically in the form of a minor audible clicking noise. If Canadian amateurs encounter such interference, they are requested to report it by e-mail to Radio Amateurs of Canada at regulatory at rac dot ca. The information reported should include the geographical location, date, time, frequency and mode being used by the amateur station, and a description of the interference. (RAC)

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RADIO RULES: ONTARIO CANADA ENACTS HANDFREE RULES THAT WILL IMPACT HAMS

If you are a ham living in the Canadian Province of Ontario, or planning to visit, listen up. On Wednesday, September 30th the Ontario Ministry of Transportation in announced that Bill 118 that bans several distractions while operating a motor vehicle in the Province will take effect on October 26, 2009.

According to Radio Amateurs of Canada, the new law makes it a violation for drivers to talk, text, type, dial or e-mail using handheld cell phones or any other handheld communications or entertainment devices. Following a three-month educational period police will start issuing tickets on February 1, 2010.

The new law does directly impact ham radio mobile operations although not immediately. Posting to the Radio Amateurs of Canada blog page, Vice President for Public Relations Peter West, VE3HG, noted that all two-way radios in all vehicles must be hands-free in three years time. The only permanent exception is for emergency response vehicles. At the end of the three-year interim exemption, all commercial, CB and Amateur Radio equipment used in moving vehicles by the vehicle operator must be set up for hands-free operation. (RAC)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N6ME repeater serving Fullerton California.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: CALIFORNIA STATION FINED $5000 FOR AIRING WRONG EAS

The FCC has proposed a $5000 fine against a California religious broadcaster who inadvertently sent out the wrong message during a designated test. This, even though the station is a volunteer in the EAS program. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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The Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture was issued to Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa, Inc., licensee of FM radio station KWVE in San Clemente, California. KWVE is a Local Primary or LP station designated to initiate the transmission of Emergency Activation System tests and alerts in several counties.

On October 19, 2008 the Commission's Enforcement Bureau says that it received a complaint alleging that KWVE transmitted commercial programming and an advertisement as part of an EAS test message. This in turn caused the programming and advertisement to be retransmitted by other broadcast stations and cable systems in the area.

On August 27, 2009, the FCC Spectrum Enforcement Division issued a letter of inquiry to the Calvary Chapel directing it to respond to the allegations against station KWVE. On September 9th Calvary Chapel did so and admitted that the incident had occurred. It called it a simple mistake caused by an employee who intended to run a scheduled weekly EAS test instead ran an unscheduled Required Monthly Test or RMT instead. It also admitted that the board operator failed to transmit the End of Message or EOM code and the message advising that the test had been concluded. Calvary Chapel categorized the incident as solely an operator error and did not constitute a willful or repeated violation under the of the Commissions Rules

But the FCC disagrees. It says KWVE is charged with the responsibility of knowing and complying with the terms of its authorization, of the Communications Act and the FCC Rules. This includes the required procedures for conducting EAS tests. Moreover, the Commission has long held that licensees are responsible for the acts and omission of their employees and independent contractors. As such it has consistently refused to excuse licensees from forfeiture penalties where the actions of employees or independent contractors have resulted in violations.

Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa was given the usual 30 days to pay the fine or to file an appeal.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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But that's not where this enforcement case ends. The CGC Communicator newsletter notes that a number of prominent people in the EAS community have stepped forward with plans to tell the FCC that they believe that the fine is inappropriate. These experts note that In short they note that Local Primary stations volunteer their services to the nation, and

some of them are beginning to ask if its worth the added responsibility of being an Local Primary if they, too, will be subject to fines for occasional slip-ups. (FCC, CGC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: A CONCRETE FINE FOR OPERATING IN THE 2M HAM BAND

A California firm has been issued a proposed $4000 fine for operating on amateur radio frequencies. This as the FCC issues a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to the Shimmick Construction Company Inc. after being caught operating a dispatch service in the 2 meter band.

In late May the FCC's Los Angeles office received several complaints that a Yorba Linda, California, concrete delivery company was operating numerous mobile stations in on 146.025 MHz. On May 26th, an agent used direction finding gear to locate the source of the transmissions that were not identified by call sign.

On May 27th the agent visited the site and spoke with the supervisor of the on-site concrete plant. The supervisor allowed the agent to inspect several of the handheld radios in use at the site where it was found that a number of portable transceivers were programmed to 146.025 MHz.

In its follow-up investigation the FCC determined that the two companies had formed the joint venture called Shimmick-Obayashi -- Shimmick Construction Inc and Obayashi Corporation and that both were Commission licensees. However none of these licenses permitted operation in any ham radio band. As a result, a proposed $4000 has been issued to the twin companies which has the usual 30 days to pay or to file an appeal. (FCC)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: THE NEW ORLEANS HAMFEST IS BACK

A popular hamfest that's been missing in action for several years has made a triumphant return. The place is New Orleans and Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, was there;

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Saturday, October 3rd saw the return of something New Orleans radio amateurs had not experienced in 13 years& a New Orleans hamfest. The last New Orleans hamfest was held in November of 1996 and, for many reasons, didn't return until 2009.

By all accounts, the hams of the Crescent City were ready and the fest was an unqualified sucess. Keith Barnes, W5KB, president of the Jefferson Amateur Radio Club who, in association with the Delta DX Association and the New Orleans Amateur Radio Club sponsored the event, says there were many positive comments about all aspects of the fest

from the venue, hotel location and venders. Keith says it takes countless hours to put on the 8 hour party, but with the help of area hams it all went smoothly. Other area clubs pitched in as well. The Ozone ARC lent their prize drum and the Amateur Radio Disaster Services of Louisiana (SELCOM) provided their 146.86 repeater for talk-in.

Icom and MFJ were there showing their latest toys as well as several venders from surrounding states.

The idea of resurrecting the hamfest began several years ago by one the original committee members of the original New Orleans Hamfest which was called AMACOM, the New Orleans Ham and Computer Festival.

Seldon Ohlsson W5LMR had often brought up reprising the fest and for whatever reason it was not done. After moving back into the Jefferson Amateur Radio Club House this last January, after having renovated it post Katrina, (Katrina's flood waters destroyed everything that the club had owned) the idea of resurrecting and co-sponsoring a Hamfest for New Orleans was brought up again. The membership said yes. It was a sometimes bumpy road, but on Saturday, October 3, the dream was realized.

Sadly, W5LMR became a silent key a few years ago. While he didn't live to see his dream realized, I know he was there in spirit and would have been the first to pitch in and help.

I was there and I had a great time! Here's to many more hamfests in the great city of New Orleans!

>From 50 miles up the road in Picayune , Mississippi, Don Wilbanks, AE5DW for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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The bottom line. Hams in the New Orleans area were happy to see this hamfest return. (AE5DW)

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PUBLIC SERVICE: D-STAR REPLACES PACKET AT MEDTRONIC MARATHON

D-Star text messaging has now replaced packet radio in the Minneapolis and Sait Paul, Minnesota, Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon. This after another flawless operation with the new mode in 2009.

According to the amateur radio team supporting the event, five Icom D-Star RP-1D access points installed on Twin Cities building rooftops have proven to be 100% reliable. This included the unusually warm 2007 race where more than 50 runners were sent to area hospitals.

Team member Erik Westgard, NY9D, say that Packet radio's low data rate, complexity of the character mode interface, and user training issues have put that aging mode on the back burner. Westhgard noted that using D-Star messaging means that any available operator can use

the groups web based missing runner application. This means that they can be helping family members far more quickly.

In 2010 look for an expansion of D-Star in this event. This, as the support team hopes to begin phasing in D-Star digital voice. This they say will allow the concurrent use of low speed data messaging as well as voice contacts. (WB9QZB)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: EDUCATIONAL CONTACT USES D-STAR INTERNATIONAL LINK

D-Star has been used for a transatlantic hookup between students in two schools separated by about 8000 miles. This as pupils at St. Marys Catholic School in Kent in the United Kingdom got the chance to speak with their counterparts at St, Marys Catholic School in Temple, Texas via a D-Star based ham radio link-up.

The contact took place on Tuesday, October 5th. The students at both schools had prepared questions to ask each other. This included such diverse subjects as sports, television, classroom subjects and culture. They were also treated to presentations at before the contact to learn more about what amateur radio is.

Brian Joyner, G8ZYZ, and Catherine Block, M1CVF, handled the duties in the United Kingdom using the services of the GB7FK D-Star repeater in Kent. Steve Bosshard, NU5D, and the Temple Amateur Radio took care of the technology in the Lone Star State.

Reports are that the session went flawlessly and that both sides are looking forward to the next one. (M1CMN, Southgate)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO ASSISTS THE HEAD OF THE CHARLES REGATTA

Ham radio will be providing communications for the Head of the Charles Regatta that takes place the weekend of October 16th to the 18th.

The Head of the Charles Regatta, also known as HOCR or HOTC, is a rowing race held each October on the Charles River, which separates Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is the largest 2-day regatta in the world, with more than 8,000 athletes rowing in some 1750 boats in 56 events. It also attracts about 300,000 spectators throughout Regatta weekend.

To make the event safe and successful, ham radio volunteers from around the area will be using the 145.430 Belmont and 146.820 Brookline repeaters to support the Red Cross Aid Stations. The Red Cross Health and Safety Committee will have at least eight rescue boats on the river and six aid locations on the shore.

The Head of the Charles Regatta is run by an office of 3 and approximately 1,500 volunteers. The regatta is hosted by Cambridge

Boat Club, a rowing and social club founded in 1909 that is headquartered on the Cambridge side of the river. Since 1998, the Head of the Charles Regatta's Charity Program has generated over $650,000 for its official charities, which include Access Sport America, Cambridge Community Foundation, and Community Rowing. (KC1US, Wikipedia)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: WB6MMH MAKES ARNEWSLINE AVAILABLE ON ECHOLINK AND IRLP

If you are on EchoLink or own use repeater that's tied to the world using IRLP there is a new service. One that will permit you to listen to these weeks newscasts just by connecting to the appropriate Echolink or IRLP node.

This new service is the work of longtime friend Skip Hansen, WB6YMH, of Rancho Palos Verdes, California. According to him, if you would like to hear the current weeks Newsline report on your repeater or link it's really easy if you are on EchoLink or IRLP.

Skip says that on EchoLink just connect to the Newsline conference, node number 6397 or dial the word news on the DTMF pad. On IRLP connect to experimental node 0016 providing that access to "experimental nodes" have been enabled by the node operator. Once you do either, the server will play the news in 2 minute chunks with 10 second pauses between them to reset timeout timers and give you an opportunity to disconnect simplex nodes. Audio is stopped during the pauses so no content is lost.

Our thanks to Skip Hansen, WB6YMH, for providing this value added service. One that will permit many hams to listen to Newsline whenever they want and wherever they might be. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: THREE SHARE NOBEL PRIZE FOR PHYSICS

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has decided to share the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics. One half will go to Charles K. Kao of Standard Telecommunication Laboratories, Harlow, in the UK, and Chinese University of Hong Kong for groundbreaking achievements concerning the

transmission of light in fibers for optical communication. The other half is being jointly awarded to Willard S. Boyle and George E. Smith, Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, NJ, in the USA. This, for the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit known as the CCD sensor.

In 1966, Charles Kao made a discovery that led to a breakthrough in fiber optics. He carefully calculated how to transmit light over long distances via optical glass fibers. With a fiber of purest glass it would be possible to transmit light signals over 100 kilometers, compared to only 20 meters for the fibers available in the 1960s. Kao's enthusiasm inspired other researchers to share his vision of the future potential of fiber optics. The first optical fiber was successfully fabricated just four years later, in 1970.

Meantime, in 1969 Willard Boyle and George Smith invented the first successful imaging technology using a digital sensor that they called the Charge-Coupled Device or CCD. CCD technology makes use of the photoelectric effect, as theorized by Albert Einstein and for which he was awarded the 1921 Nobel Prize. By this effect, light is transformed into electric signals. For Boyle and Smith the challenge when designing an image sensor was to gather and read out the signals in a large number of image points, pixels, in a short time. They were successful and because of this the CCD has become the digital camera's eye.

This discovery revolutionized photography, as light could now be captured electronically instead of on film . CCD technology is also used in many medical applications, including imaging the inside of the human body for both diagnostics and for microsurgery. (Adapted from Nobel Foundation release)

**

RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ.COM NOW HAS ELECTRONIC QSLING INFO

The giant QRZ dot com callsign website has expanded its callsign database. This, with added fields that take into account the emergence of electronic confirmations of on the air contacts as well as those hams who only use cards sent via the mail.

The newly added fields are Mail QSL that indicates whether this person will QSL by Postal Mail, eQSL says that a ham is using eQSL.cc, LOTW indicates whether this person uses LOTW. Another new field is IOTA which permits the insertion of an Islands on the Air designator.

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ, who owns and manages QR.com notes that these are all user supplied items. That means if the item appears in the listing then the record reflects the member's choice. Otherwise, nothing is shown for these items. Lloyd adds that these new fields are also transmitted in the QRZ XML Logbook Data stream. For more info about logbook data, see the QRZ.com XML page. (QRZ)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: WI-FI SECURITY PAINT

The BBC News reports that researchers have created a special kind of paint which can block out wireless signals. The paint reportedly contains an aluminum-iron oxide which the inventor claims to resonates at the same frequency as wi-fi meaning the airborne data is absorbed and blocked.

Developed at the University of Tokyo, the paint could cost as little as $10 per kilogram. I t means security conscious wireless users could block their neighbors from being able to access their home network without having to set up encryption. Another possible use would be in restaurants and theaters where use of cellphones and text messaging devices has become an annoyance to others.

While paints blocking lower frequencies have been available for some time, this is the first technology to absorb frequencies transmitting in the 100 GHz range.

You can read the full BBC News story 'Anti-wi-fi paint offers security' at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8279549.stm (BBC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: APPLE PASSES TWO BILLION APS DOWNLOADS

Apple Inc. says that more than 2 billion applications have been downloaded from its App Store. This, marking a milestone for the company's year-old business.

According to Apple, more than 85,000 applications are available to 50 million iPhone and iPod Touch customers worldwide. Apple also notes that more than 125,000 software designers are registered in its iPhone Developer Program. (Apple)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT-NA SUPPORTS JOTA WITH AO-51

Turning to ham radio space related news, word from AMSAT-North America says that it is supporting the 52nd Jamboree on the Air Scouting event by dedicating AO-51 operation to it.

On October 17th and 18th the AO-51 the QRP repeater will be set to crossband FM mode and allocated for the scouts to use. The mode change should occur at 00:00 UTC on the 17th and run for approximately 48 hours.

The frequencies to be used for the Jamboree weekend will be 145.880 FM uplink, and 435.150 FM Downlink. No tone access is required. All satellite users are requested to give priority to Jamboree stations and to hold QSO's with them. (KO4MA)

**

DX

In DX, word from our longtime friend John Abbruscato, W5JON, that he will be operating from the hilltop QTH overlooking the Caribbean Sea, and Marigot Bay, St. Lucia from October 20th to the 30th. He will use the call J68JA on 160 through 6 meters using an Icom IC-7000, KL-400 Amplifier into multi-band dipoles on the High Frequency bands and a 3 Element yagi on 6. The dates include the Includes CQ World Wide SSB Contest. QSL to W5JON.

A German team will operate from the Radio Club Station of Tunisian Scouts using a special callsign 3V3S between November 23rd and December 2nd. The team will install and use a Spiderbeam and verticals. Once the DXpedition has concluded the antennas will be donated to the 3V8SS club station. QSL via DL9USA. More is on-line at www.3V3S.tk.

Brian, ND3F, will be active from Barbados as 8P9SS between November 22nd and December 2nd. His operation will probably be on all bands, and he will also be in the CQWW DX CW Contest on November 28th and -29th as a Single-Op/All-Band/Low-Power entry. QSL via Logbook to the World or direct to ND3F.

K9NW will be active from Botswana as A25NW between November 23rd and December 1st. His operation is expected to include His operation is also expected to include the CQWW DX CW Contest. QSL via his home callsign as listed on QRZ.com.

F5PTM will be active from Afghanistan through December as T6YA . Listen out for him on 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters on CW only. QSL via F5OGL.

DL9USA,will be active from Comino Island between October 15th and the 22nd. Bands and modes of his activity were not provided. QSL via his home callsign.

Lastly JA1FJJ, will be active from Bhutan as A52FJJ through October 20th. Operations will be on 80 through 10 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. He plans to use 500 watts into a G5RV antenna. QSL via his home callsign, direct or by the Bureau.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE LONGEST CW MESSAGE EVER

And finally this week, an answer to the question of what was the longest Morse code message ever sent. With the answer, here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Burt Hicks, has the details:

--

The longest Morse message ever sent took place on October 26, 1864. That's when then Governor of the Territory of Nevada, James W. Nye, ordered that a telegram be sent to President Abraham Lincoln that contained the entire text of the Nevada State Constitution.

According to historians, the job of sending such a long telegram at the height of the Civil War was a challenge. This was because there was no direct wirline link from Carson City to Washington, DC. So telegrapher James H. Guild worked seven hours to transmit the message to Salt Lake City, where it was resent to Chicago, then Philadelphia, and finally to the War Department's telegraph Office in Washington. There, two days later, where a 175-page transcription was made.

The final page shows a total 16,543word count and cost $4313.27 to send. In todays dollarettes that would be $59,229 to pay for the one-way the transmission. Three days after receiving this telegram and in accordance with an Act of Congress, President Lincoln proclaimed that Nevada was admitted into the Union.

This 175-page transcription is now in the holdings of the National Archives and is on display in an exhibition entitled "BIG!" That exhibit celebrates the 75th anniversary of the National Archives by featuring big records, big events and of coarse some very big ideas.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks, in Los Angeles.

--

The exhibition runs through January 3, 2010 in Washington, DC. It will then be sent out on a national tour. (News release)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's" only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno, Nevada, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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447. Constant carrier on 14.0MHz; real or local artifact?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-09 15:20:55 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9C9F693961BE2VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1757

For the past week or so, I've been hearing a constant carrier on
14.0MHz, as exactly on frequency as my rig can determine.

It varies in strength through the day, changes strength when I switch
between my R5 vertical and 40 meter dipole, and disappears when I switch
out the antennas.

Even though nothing new has been introduced into the house, I went
through the exercise of unplugging or turning things off, but the signal
remains.

Anybody else hearing it, or is it something local?

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

448. Re: Constant carrier on 14.0MHz; real or local artifact?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-09 21:28:53 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <5ba8169c-59eb-44e2-941b-fb7df3480608@s6g2000vbp.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1758
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

On Oct 9, 11:20 am, Bert Hyman wrote:

> Even though nothing new has been introduced into the house, I went
> through the exercise of unplugging or turning things off, but the signal
> remains.
>
> Anybody else hearing it, or is it something local?

Your signal strength variations argue against it, but is there a
possibility that your calibrator is turned on?

- 73 de Mike N3LI

449. What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-09 21:29:21 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <290fc5ff-0c2a-401a-9748-3612383754b7@a21g2000yqc.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1759

I've always been interrested in what's inside other Amateur's shacks.
And I don't think we've ever done that here.

So whatchya got?

My Home station is an Icom IC-761. I'm controlling it with a PC
running Ham Radio Deluxe, and DM-780. I have two antennas, one is a
Butternut HF-6V, and the other is a ladder line fed dipole, 96 feet
total, and I'm tuning with a MFJ 993 auto tuner. Key is a Bencher
Paddle.

For VHF, I'm using a Kenwood 241 and pushing the signal out with a J-
pole.

In the Car, I'm running a Kenwood TS480SAT into a homebrew Bug catcher
(except for the coil) For VHF/UHF I use a Kenwood D-700 to a 5/8th
wave antenna. For aprs in the car, I use a laptop running AprsPoint
and MapPoint, and connect the GPS unit through the computer.

- 73 de Mike N3LI -

450. Re: Constant carrier on 14.0MHz; real or local artifact?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-09 21:30:58 UTC
From: Fred McKenzie <fmmck@aol.com>
Message-ID: <fmmck-649B1C.15184509102009@nntp.aioe.org>
Source record: 1760

In article <Xns9C9F693961BE2VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>,
Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com> wrote:

> For the past week or so, I've been hearing a constant carrier on
> 14.0MHz, as exactly on frequency as my rig can determine.
>
> It varies in strength through the day, changes strength when I switch
> between my R5 vertical and 40 meter dipole, and disappears when I switch
> out the antennas.
>
> Even though nothing new has been introduced into the house, I went
> through the exercise of unplugging or turning things off, but the signal
> remains.
>
> Anybody else hearing it, or is it something local?

Bert-

I've heard it here in Florida.

I wonder if it could have anything to do with a common local oscillator
in an HD Radio or Television? I don't hear as much noise on 3.579545
any more. However, I have a clock with a battery-backup circuit that
divides 3.57940 down to 60 Hz, and it comes in loud and clear!

Fred
K4DII

451. Re: Constant carrier on 14.0MHz; real or local artifact?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-09 23:42:20 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9C9FB9BCCBA52VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1761
Body handling: HTML body converted to readable text

In news:5ba8169c-59eb-44e2-941b-fb7df3480608@s6g2000vbp.googlegroups.com
Mike Coslo wrote:

> On Oct 9, 11:20 am, Bert Hyman wrote:
>
>> Even though nothing new has been introduced into the house, I went
>> through the exercise of unplugging or turning things off, but the
>> signal remains.
>>
>> Anybody else hearing it, or is it something local?
>
> Your signal strength variations argue against it, but is there a
> possibility that your calibrator is turned on?

Rig doesn't have one :-)

[TenTec Omni VII]

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

452. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-09 23:42:45 UTC
From: Howard Lester <howardxtlester@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <haohc9$2qt$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1762

"Mike Coslo" wrote

> I have two antennas, one is a
> Butternut HF-6V, and the other is a ladder line fed dipole, 96 feet
> total, and I'm tuning with a MFJ 993 auto tuner.

Mike, what's the height of your dipole, and what bands do you successfully work with it? In my new qth I have room for a 90' dipole, and wondered if I can work 75/80 with it. I may be able to get one end up about 50' or higher, the other end 31' (if I buy a certain telescoping mast). I know that's pretty low for 75/80, but what the heck.

Howard N7SO

453. Re: Constant carrier on 14.0MHz; real or local artifact?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-11 22:12:25 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <hatl7p$9dr$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1763

Bert,

Not imagination. From my Plymouth station it bears about 315 degrees, and from my Lake Vermilion station it seems southerly, but inconsistent. Measurements taken Friday from Vermilion, and Saturday and Sunday from Plymouth.

What's the azimuth from your station?

73, de Hans, K0HB
--
"Just a boy and his Radio"
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Request QSL at ---> http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/K0HB
All valid QSL requests honored with old fashioned paper QSL!
LoTW participant

"Bert Hyman" <bert@iphouse.com> wrote in message
news:Xns9C9F693961BE2VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213...
> For the past week or so, I've been hearing a constant carrier on
> 14.0MHz, as exactly on frequency as my rig can determine.
>
> It varies in strength through the day, changes strength when I switch
> between my R5 vertical and 40 meter dipole, and disappears when I switch
> out the antennas.
>
> Even though nothing new has been introduced into the house, I went
> through the exercise of unplugging or turning things off, but the signal
> remains.
>
> Anybody else hearing it, or is it something local?
>
> --
> Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com
>

454. Re: Constant carrier on 14.0MHz; real or local artifact?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-12 17:41:40 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <havpo3$o5o$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1764

Bert,

I have a number of reports from MWA, TCDXA, and others in MN, WI, and SD,
all reporting the signal. Most with westerly bearings.

73, de Hans, K0HB
--
"Just a boy and his Radio"
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Request QSL at ---> http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/K0HB
All valid QSL requests honored with old fashioned paper QSL!
LoTW participant

"Bert Hyman" <bert@iphouse.com> wrote in message
news:Xns9C9F693961BE2VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213...
> For the past week or so, I've been hearing a constant carrier on
> 14.0MHz, as exactly on frequency as my rig can determine.

455. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-14 18:49:35 UTC
From: Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <588f31ad-aa13-4087-8893-7f0eec8a2a23@o10g2000yqa.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1765

On Oct 9, 7:42 pm, "Howard Lester" <howardxtles...@verizon.net> wrote:
> "Mike Coslo" wrote
>
> > I have two antennas, one is a
> > Butternut HF-6V, and the other is a ladder line fed dipole, 96 feet
> > total, and I'm tuning with a MFJ 993 auto tuner.
>
> Mike, what's the height of your dipole, and what bands do you successfull
y
> work with it?

Hi Howard,

Right around 50 feet high.
It's almost straight, with just enough droop to keep it in one piece when the winds blow. I do work 75 and 80 meters with it, actually much better than I had expected. One year during NAQP, I was working California stations right after I tuned the setup, After about an hour, I looked at the SWR meter and saw that I had forgot to increase the power after tuning. It wasn't just that I was operating QRP, it was that I didn't notice it. I called, they heard.

It tunes all the bands from 80 to 10 - past 20 meters it is very broad tuning. I've tuned it on 160 meters, but not had the intestinal fortitude to operate it there. Probably would work after a fashion, just not very well.

- 73 de dMike N3LI -

456. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-14 19:41:53 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <e5659733-f3e0-4e78-b281-513ea510465d@37g2000yqm.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1766

Well, let's see....

The main rig is a homebrew 80/40/20 CW transceiver of my own design, built in the early 1990s and still going strong. It consists of a 12 tube single conversion receiver, an external 1 tube audio amp for driving a speaker, a 2 tube transceive adapter that converts the receiver VFO to the transmit frequency, and a 3 tube transmitter section that ends up in a pair of 807s. There are two power supplies, one for the low-level stages (one rectifier, two VR tubes) and one for the transmitter section (four rectifiers, four VR tubes, one time-delay relay and three control relays). The receiver has two cascaded 8 pole crystal filters and an LC audio filter, and the VFO is built around the capacitor from a BC-221. There is also a homebrew Universal Transmatch which has an internal SWR bridge and permits selection of different rigs and antennas.

The entire assembly is known as the Southgate Type 7. Only a few crystals and the solder for it were bought new, everything else was NOS, used, or recovered from old gear.

The antenna system is a homebrew 80/40 W3DZZ-inspired inverted V which uses N4UU-style coax-cable-on-PVC traps. Center at about 37 feet, ends at about 12-15 feet. Fed with RG-8X, no balun. Adjusted for near-unity SWR on 3540 and 7040, less than 3:1 on 20.

I have five Morse Code keys: four Vibroplex bugs (two Original Standard, one Lightning Bug, one Champion) and a WW2 J-37.

The clock is a Telechron mechanical digital clock made from the parts of several junkers. The speaker box, op desk, equipment shelves and almost all shack/shop furniture are homebrew. The chair was found alongside a dumpster.

There is currently no shack computer but one is being assembled from the parts of discarded PCs. It will run Win98SE and be used mostly for contest logging.

Also have an Elecraft K2 which is hooked up and used occasionally (built it from a kit in 2001) and a Heath HW-2036 (built from a kit in 1977) a BC-342N used for general coverage ($2 back in the mid-1980s) and an LM-20 frequency meter.

Several predecessors of the Type 7 are in storage as backups. Others were dismantled years ago for the parts.

There's also the library, the shop, and the parts inventory, but you didn't ask about those.

73 de Jim, N2EY

457. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-14 20:01:15 UTC
From: Steve Bonine <spb@pobox.com>
Message-ID: <7jmovuF36klm2U1@mid.individual.net>
Source record: 1767

Mike Coslo wrote:

> It tunes all the bands from 80 to 10 - past 20 meters it is very broad
> tuning. I've tuned it on 160 meters, but not had the intestinal
> fortitude to operate it there. Probably would work after a fashion,
> just not very well.

I love ladder-fed dipoles. They're dead simple, make the best use of whatever space you have, and work remarkably well. I had especially good luck with them when I used to work Field Day.

And yes, you can use them on 160. Not the greatest antenna, but I don't work 160 enough to justify a separate antenna and "good enough" is fine.

73, Steve KB9X

458. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-14 21:01:54 UTC
From: helmsman@wowway.com
Message-ID: <dqdcd5parruqi5t8rid9q23fku9u2mfcjg@4ax.com>
Source record: 1768

On Fri, 9 Oct 2009 17:29:21 EDT, Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com>
wrote:

>I've always been interrested in what's inside other Amateur's shacks.
>And I don't think we've ever done that here.
>
>So whatchya got?

I use an R6000 Vertical and random length wire with a MFJ-949E tuner
for HF with a Kenwood TS450SAT.

For VHF I use a small ground plane with a Kenwood TM-261.
Both are wide open for Mars operations.

CW,USB,LSB,AM,WIN-PSK
Had a tower and tri band beams @ 50' and a 1500 watt amplifier but I'm
to old to climb so I gave them to a young ham.
KG8PM / ***5**

459. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-14 23:07:50 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9CA4B85F7A372VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1769

In
news:290fc5ff-0c2a-401a-9748-3612383754b7@a21g2000yqc.googlegroups.com
Mike Coslo <miken3li@gmail.com> wrote:

> I've always been interrested in what's inside other Amateur's shacks.
> And I don't think we've ever done that here.
>
> So whatchya got?

I think that the only thing of interest in my shack is my old Heathkit
GC-1005 digital clock, which has been in more-or-less continuous use
since I built it in 1973, when I lived in New Jersey and held the call
W2HIR.

Otherwise, there's a TenTec Omni 7, a Cushcraft R5 on the roof and a 40m
dipole in the back yard.

http://members.iphouse.com/bert/

Top picture; the station is on the right.

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

460. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-15 01:09:14 UTC
From: Howard Lester <howardxtlester@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <hb5it5$35g$1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1770

"Mike Coslo" wrote

Hi Howard,

Right around 50 feet high.
It's almost straight, with just enough droop to keep it in one piece
when the winds blow. I do work 75 and 80 meters with it, actually much
better than I had expected.

Thanks Mike - sounds good and encouraging. I need to get one of those push up fiberglass poles -- either the 43' or 31' version -- to support the other end of one version of a proposed 90' dipole. Maybe I'll do that next spring. In the meantime I'm going to try a random wire (about 100' long) with the far end thrown over as high a branch as I can reach... or find someone with a bow and arrow to do it. For 80 and 40 it'll complement my little MFJ Hi-Q Loop I use for 10 - 30 meters. The rig's an IC-735 and an AEA Transmatch. I'm almost ready to assemble the station now that I've moved back to 2-land.

Howard N7SO

461. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-15 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1255586401@panix.com>
Source record: 1771
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.10 2009/05/27 12:04:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader
opinions in March of 2009:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt
it permanently if successful.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and
news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc.

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message)
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

Because rec.radio.amateur.moderated is a Usenet newsgroup, there are | implied or derived guidelines for participation that are drawn from the | above articles about overall Usenet culture and tradition. Two of these | implied or derived guidelines are encapsulated in two basic rules that | our moderation team uses to initially determine whether an article is | appropriate for our newsgroup. They are restated explicitly here for | clarification: |

Basic Rule #1: The article must be on-topic for amateur radio. A | rule-of-thumb that our moderation team applies is whether the article | mentions amateur radio, ham radio, some synonym for amateur or ham | radio, some technique or practice of amateur or ham radio including | closely related technical topics such as antennas or portable power, or | regulatory politics that directly affect amateur radio. This | rule-of-thumb is also applied to determine if an article in a thread has | drifted too far off-topic. For example, articles that have drifted into | general rants or monologues will probably be returned with a polite | request to rewrite to include a reasonable amateur radio connection or | angle. |

Basic Rule #2: The article must not have excessive spelling, grammar, or | logical argument errors affecting readability and understandability. | The moderation team understands that clear, understandable, technical or | expository writing is a skill that can only be perfected through a | lifetime of focused training and practice. Because the moderation team | does not want to hold submitters to a standard higher than what it can | achieve itself, nor disrupt the newsgroup and discourage submitters by | playing spelling or grammar police, it will only return for rewrite any | article that cannot be reasonably understood by multiple moderators. |

If it is necessary to return any article for a rewrite because the | moderators have determined that it does not meet Basic Rule #1 or #2, | please accept this constructive feedback in the manner in which it is | intended. The moderation team offers its assistance to help rewrite any | submitted article into a form that preserves its original intent and | meaning, but is also on-topic, as well as readable and understandable by | others. |

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which

itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such

fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The

moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management Board:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

462. The ARRL Letter for October 15, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-16 00:34:12 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091015185659.EF7823279D5@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1772
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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October 15, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

ARRL Home Page <http://www.arrl.org/>ARRL Letter Archive
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

- + Three Killed While Erecting Antenna
- + Public Service: Ham Provides Rescue Support at Utah Marathon
- + Operating: Team Leaders Selected for WRTC 2010
- Operating: Get Ready for JOTA This Weekend!
- + Operating: After False Starts, Midway Island DXpedition off to Good
Beginning
- Hints & Kinks : Altoids Times Two
- + Did You Know? The Wouff Hong
- + Events: Dayton Hamvention Crew Readies for 2010 Show
- This Week on the Radio:
- The ARRL Letter : HTML vs Plain Text
- Organizational: ARRL Membership Newsletters, Bulletins and
Notifications

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + THREE KILLED WHILE ERECTING ANTENNA

At approximately 8:40 PM on October 12, a man, woman and their 15 year
old son were killed while trying to erect a 50 foot vertical antenna at
the home of the man's mother, Barbara Tenn, KJ4KFF, in Palm Bay,
Florida. The deceased were not licensed amateurs. According to police
reports, Melville Braham, 55, Anna Braham, 49, and their 15 year old
son Anthony were putting up an antenna -- Tenn's second -- at night
when they lost control of the antenna and it crashed into nearby
overhead power lines. The impact sent 13,000 volts of electricity
through the pole that the three were holding. A family friend, a 17
year old boy, was on the roof at the time of the accident. He and the
couple's daughter, who was in the house at the time, were not injured.
Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/13/11135/?nc=1>
for more information.
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==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM PROVIDES RESCUE SUPPORT AT UTAH MARATHON

While not as well known as the Boston and New York City Marathons, Utah's St George Marathon <http://www.stgeorgemarathon.com/> draws more than 7000 runners to the town of St George -- located 300 miles south of Salt Lake City, near the Utah-Arizona-Nevada border -- each year. The race, now in its 33rd year, uses shuttle vans equipped with Amateur Radio operators and medical personnel to provide any help and support needed along its course. On October 3 -- race day -- Brian Plumb, KE7HNW, was driving Shuttle #3, with Kathy Hutchinson, a nurse at a local hospital, by his side. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/15/11141/?nc=1> for more information.

==> + OPERATING: TEAM LEADERS SELECTED FOR WRTC 2010

After a grueling selection process, the organizers of the 2010 World Radiosport Team Championships (WRTC <http://www.wrtc2010.ru/>) have selected team leaders representing all six continents. Of the 76 applications submitted, 44 were selected as Team Leaders; these Team Leaders will now choose a partner. WRTC, held every few years, takes place during the IARU HF World Championships, July 10-11. In 2010, WRTC will be held just outside Moscow. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/13/11133/?nc=1> for more information.

==> OPERATING: GET READY FOR JOTA THIS WEEKEND!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQIHdml8inU> When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a quadrennial World Jamboree. But each year, more than 400,000 Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). This year, JOTA celebrates its 52nd anniversary. JOTA follows a 48 hour schedule beginning at 0000 local time on Saturday, October 17, continuing through 2400 local time on Sunday, October 18. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/15/11142/?nc=1> for more information, including suggested frequencies, satellite operations, available resources and more.

==> + OPERATING: AFTER FALSE STARTS, MIDWAY ISLAND DXPEDITION OFF TO GOOD BEGINNING

After the airplane scheduled to take the K4M DXpedition team from Honolulu to Midway Island developed engine trouble, there was doubt as to if the team would even make it to the island. But Murphy didn't get in the way -- mechanics found the necessary parts to get the plane in the air safely. After a four hour flight, the team arrived on Midway at 0700 UTC on Monday, October 12 to start operations. Originally scheduled to be on-the-air for 10 days (beginning October 9), the team might not be able to extend their time on the island, due to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulations. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/13/11137/?nc=1> for more

information.

==> + OPERATING: HAMS ON-THE-AIR TO SUPPORT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

The KP1-5 Project -- organizers of the 2009 Desecheo Island DXpedition -- is pleased to announce that Amateur Radio operators will be operating in observance of the 2009 National Wildlife Refuge Week, on the air October 10-18. This event features scores of festivals and special events that help connect people with nature at the country's 547 National Wildlife Refuges. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/14/11139/?nc=1> for more information.

==> + OPERATING: ARRL DXCC DESK APPROVES FT5GA OPERATION

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, reports that the FT5GA operation on Glorioso Island <http://glorieuses2008.free.fr/index-e.htm> -- September 14-October 8, 2009 -- has been approved for DXCC credit. Until this operation, Glorioso sat at number 4 on DX Magazine <http://www.dxpub.com/>'s Most Wanted list; five operators operating for 23 days made more than 50,000 QSOs to make this rare one available.

==> HINTS & KINKS : ALTOIDS TIMES TWO

Sam Green, W0PCE, of St Louis, Missouri, has a different take on those ubiquitous Altoids tins:

Many of us mount compact circuits in cases that previously contained mint candies. My friend Matt, W0XEU, suggested packaging more complex circuits in multiple Altoids tins by mounting them back to back, a simple yet elegant idea.

I built this circuit in a "double-wide" arrangement because I needed somewhere to put the

batteries. This offered the added advantage of providing a means to filter bench power during development and testing so I wouldn't leak ambient RF signals into the main compartment with its very sensitive circuitry. I simply drill a hole near each corner to screw the boxes together. If you are careful with the placement of the holes you can even turn the arrangement around later to reverse the way the covers open. Otherwise, plan ahead. I feed power between compartments via a threaded coaxial feed-through EMI <http://www.mouser.com/tusonix>(electromagnetic interference) filter <http://www.tusonix.com/filters.html>, with additional bypass capacitors for this very sensitive application. The threaded filter

serves in place of one of the screws that hold the cases together. I use conductive adhesive-backed copper tape <http://parts.digikey.com/1/parts/1376464-tape-copper-foil-1-x-18yds-1245-x-1.html> as a gasket to minimize leakage into the shielded compartment that

contains the sensitive circuitry.

You can extend this method to additional compartments where you might want many stages of gain and you need to isolate and control the coupling between them. This is a very simple and effective way to prototype more complex circuits before you have to worry about customizing the packaging. Matt and I hope you will find this method useful. -- 73, Sam Green, W0PCE, 10951 Pem Road, St Louis, MO 63146, w0pce@arrl.net

==> + DID YOU KNOW? THE WOUFF HONG

Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air. The Wouff Hong <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/history.html#hong> was invented -- or at any rate, discovered -- by "The Old Man" himself, just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War I. The Old Man (who later turned out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, co-founder and first President of ARRL) first heard the Wouff Hong described amid the howls and garble of interference as he tuned across a band filled with signals that exemplified all the rotten operating practices then available to amateurs (considering the state of the art as they knew it). As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated. After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air. The Original Wouff Hong is on display at ARRL Headquarters. Find out more about this dreaded instrument of torture here <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/history.html#hong>.

==> AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE : COLUMBUS ANTENNAS TO TAKE TO THE SKIES

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1efXlL75dvA> In February 2008, the new Columbus module -- built by the European Space Agency (ESA) -- was attached to the International Space Station (ISS). When ESA first announced its intentions for the module a number of years ago, the ARISS International team began planning how to get ham radio integrated. While ESA's blueprints were being drawn, hams made serious inquiries and gave presentations, eventually winning approval to have antenna feed-through connectors added to the module. ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, discusses the latest developments <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/10/05/11110/?nc=1>.

==> + EVENTS: DAYTON HAMVENTION CREW READIES FOR 2010 SHOW

Organizers of the 2010 Dayton Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org/>Â® -- May 14-16 -- are gearing up for one of the largest Amateur Radio gatherings in the world. According to Hamvention Assistant General

Chair Michael Kalter, W8CI, a new online program for taking and tracking online orders has been implemented and all volunteer committee chairs and assistants are in place. Kalter said that the theme of the 2010 Hamvention is Amateur Radio Clubs Worldwide: The Lifeline. "We all recognize how much Amateur Radio clubs and organizations contribute to the service, Kalter said. "We all see this in how clubs pull together in disasters, Field Day, contests, working with youth, teaching classes and sponsoring hamfests; in parts of the world, the club truly is the communication link to the world." Kalter said that Hamvention organizers are asking hams to submit photos of your Amateur Radio club and the activities that the club participates in. "We would like to use some of these on the front and back cover of the Hamvention program for 2010," he said. "We are also looking for stories of interest from your club.".

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO:

This week, look for the School Club Roundup <http://www.arrl.org/SCR/> October 19-23. There's an NCCC Sprint October 16. The Iowa QSO Party, the Feld Hell Sprint and the Microwave Fall Sprint are October 17. On October 17-18, check out the New York QSO Party, JARTS WW RTTY Contest, the Stew Perry Topband Challenge, the Worked All Germany Contest and the W/VE Islands QSO Party. The Illinois QSO Party is October 18-19 and the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is October 19. Next week, you'll find another NCCC Sprint on October 23. The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB), the CW and Digital runnings of the10-10 International Fall Contest, and the 50 MHz Fall Sprint are October 24-25. The SKCC Sprint is October 28. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> ARRL PUBLICATIONS : CHECK OUT THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE OF QEX

The November/December issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex> is coming soon, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you don't want to miss. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/14/11138/?nc=1> to discover what's inside this upcoming issue. QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B <lwolfgang@arrl.org>, and is published bimonthly.

==> THE ARRL LETTER : HTML VS PLAIN TEXT

Many people have asked how they can continue to read The ARRL Letter in a plain text format. ARRL IT Department Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z, has provided instructions <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/about.html#plaintext> to do just that. According to Bloom, most e-mail reading programs provide some means of

accessing the plain-text version if you want it. Unfortunately, we are not able to send out plain text versions (like the ones prior to October 1) of The ARRL Letter. If you like the look of HTML (including pictures and videos), but do not want to receive the Letter in HTML format, you can access current and archived editions via the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>.

==> TAPR ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

At the recent ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference (DCC <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=9182>) in Chicago, the TAPR <http://www.tapr.org/> Board of Directors of selected a new slate of officers and named Dr David Toth, VE3GYQ, President Emeritus of TAPR. Dr Toth served as TAPR President from 2005-2009 and as a member of the Board from 1987-1993 and 2004 to present. The new TAPR officers are: Steve Bible, N7HPR, President; Scott Cowling, WA2DFI, Vice President; Tom Holmes, N8ZM, Treasurer; and Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, Secretary. TAPR recently elected three new members to their Board of Directors: Scott Cowling, WA2DFI; John Koster, W9DDD, and Mark Thompson, WB9QZB. -- Thanks to Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, for the information

==> SILENT KEY: MATHIAS BJERRANG, LA5NM/JW5NM (SK)

Noted DXer Mathias Bjerrang, LA5NM/JW5NM, passed away October 11. He was 67. While in Svalbard, Norway, Bjerrang slipped and fell while walking, hitting his head and was later found Sunday morning, cold and unable to speak. He was brought inside where he later stopped breathing; he was unable to be resuscitated and died. A native of Norway, Bjerrang went on many cold weather DXpeditions, including the North and South Poles. Many times, he provided the sought-after double multiplier of Zone 40 and Svalbard in contests. Bjerrang earned WAS <http://www.arrl.org/awards/was/> as JW5NM and DXCC <http://www.arrl.org/awards/dxcc/> as both JW5NM and LA5NM; he was previously on the DXCC Honor Roll as JW5NM. Thanks to The Daily DX <http://www.dailydx.com/> for some information

==> ORGANIZATIONAL: ARRL MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTERS, BULLETINS AND NOTIFICATIONS

Did you know the ARRL offers more newsletters than just The ARRL Letter? One of the many ARRL membership benefits includes other newsletters, such as the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> (a bi-weekly contest newsletter), the ARES E-Letter <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/ares-el/> (sent monthly, containing public service and emergency communications news), the ARRL Club News, the ARRL Instructor/Teacher E-Letter and the VE Newsletter, to name a few. You can also elect to receive news and information from your Division Director and Section Manager (keep in mind that not all Divisions/Sections send notices), as well as W1AW bulletins that relate to DX, propagation, satellites and Keplerian reports. The ARRL also offers a free notification service to members, letting them know when

their membership and license are due to expire. Sign up for these newsletters, bulletins and notifications on the Member Data page of the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/memdata.html>.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

<http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/>Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cep@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

463. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1679 - October 16 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-16 14:11:47 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091016011751.017cbec0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1773
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1679 - October 16 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1679 with a release date of Friday, October 16th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. A family looses its lives trying to help a ham put up an antenna, Australia unveils a free Electromagnetic safety calculator that covers the VHF and UHF ham bands, Midway Island finally makes it on the air and D-Star goes to new heights and then jumps out. Find out what we mean on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1679 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO SAFETY: THREE ELECTROCUTED INSTALLING HAM ANTENNA IN FLORIDA

Three people trying to help a Florida ham by installing an antenna for her have been electrocuted in a bizarre accident that happened after dark. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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A mother, father and their 15-year-old son died on Monday, October 12th. This, after being electrocuted while attempting to erect a ham radio antenna.

The Palm Bay Florida Police Department identified the victims as Melville Braham, 55, Anna Braham, 49, and their 15 year old son Anthony. None were licensed radio amateurs but they appeared to have been assisting an area ham with an antenna installation.

Authorities say the family was attempting to raise the antenna mast when they lost control and it struck an overhead power line. It made contact with the overhead wiring and sent 13,000 volts down through the antenna mast the three were holding,

When paramedics arrived, they found all three on the ground not breathing. Rescue crews immediately tried to resuscitate them. Anna Braham was pronounced dead at the scene. The father and son were taken to a local hospital, where they were later pronounced dead.

Florida Power & Light Co. crews also responded to the scene. They shut off power in the area while authorities collected evidence and documented the scene.

According to news reports, Anthony Barham attended Southwest Middle School. Grief counselors were available at the school on Tuesday October 13th to help students deal with the tragic loss of their friend.

Federal Communications Commission records do not show that any of the victims were licensed amateur radio amateurs. They do, however, show a license issued to a Barbara V. Tenn, KJ4KFF, at the address where the electrocutions occurred.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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This appears to be yet another case of those trying to put up an antenna not realizing the potential danger of nearby overhead high tension electric distribution, and the fact that these wires are all but invisible at night. (Published news reports)

**

RADIO SAFETY: NEW EMI CALCULATOR AVAILABLE FROM THE ACMA

Australia's Swinburne University, together with EM Software and Systems, has developed an online tool that will allow users to calculate exclusion zones around antennas where radiation levels exceed safety standard limits.

Commissioned by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, the exclusion zone calculator will allow people to conduct safety assessments of transmitting antennas, such as those found on boats, four wheel drives, at fixed station locations and even communication networks operating in the VHF and UHF spectrum. This includes ham bands from 2 meters on up through 2.4 GHz.

To calculate the zone, all users need to do is enter the antenna type, transmitter power, antenna gain and frequency band into the online tool. Click your mouse and the program will automatically calculate the safe distance around the antenna in metric distance.

The ACMA has also produced a booklet entitled Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Radiation Information for Licensees of Radio-Communications Transmitters. Both the on-line tool and a booklet that explains EME health exposure can be found at www.acma.gov.au. (ACMA)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT-NA ANNOUNCES NEW FM CUBESAT

AMSAT North America says that its once again headed back into space. This time with a brand new cubesat that will be like no other before it.

During the board meeting held Oct. 8 in conjunction with the Annual Space Symposium the AMSAT Board of Directors adopted the Engineering Task Force recommendation that low-cost launch options be pursued immediately. This means that the AMSAT engineering team will develop a 1U CubeSat design effective immediately.

The new AMSAT CubeSat's initial capability is planned to add to the popular low-earth orbit FM transponder fleet allowing hams to continue to use their existing handheld and portable antenna systems. Such a satellite also continues the accessible entry path for new satellite operators to get started.

Meantime, word that the flight version of ARISSat-1 replacement for SuitSat 2 has been developed to be adaptable into the CubeSat model. This will allow a modular approach to mission design using proven subsystems and components.

The ARISSat-1 mission planned in 2010 and will be the initial flight test of AMSAT's modular satellite. According to Tony Monteiro, AA2TX, who is AMSAT North America's Vice-President of Engineering, this approach to building flight hardware gets AMSAT back up in space with new satellites by leveraging the skills and technology it has today.

AMSAT says that there's another reason for this fast track approach. This is because the existing FM satellites are starting to show their age. (AMSAT, N3TL)

**

BREAKING DX NEWS: MIDWAY ISLAND TEAM FINALLY ARRIVES ON THE ISLAND

It took a few more days than planned but the Midway Island DXpedition has finally arrived and is on the air. The K4M team was supposed to be on the island on Friday, October 9th, but an oil line leak in one of the engines of the Grumman Gulfstream 1 turbo-prop aircraft chartered to carry them from Hawaii to Midway kept them on the ground an extra two days.

The team arrived safely on Midway Atoll at 07:00 UTC on Monday morning October 12th. At daybreak they began assembling their antennas to put the stations on air.

As reported last week, the multi-national team of 18 operators will activate Midway Island through October 19th. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service had authorized this amateur radio operation from this rare U.S. entity for only a 10 day period beginning on the 9th but has told the team that no extension can be granted due to the migratory schedule of the islands indigenous bird population.

This is the first amateur radio activity from Midway in almost 10 years. Midway Island ranks number 24 world-wide and number 13 in Europe on the DX Magazine's "Most Wanted List".

We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (K4M Press Release)

**

DX FOLLOW-UP: GLORIOSO DX TEAM REACHES 50000 QSO'S

The FT5GA Glorioso Island operation is now QRT and the operators are happy that the goal of 50,000 QSOs' was reached. This by the crew of five hams with two and sometimes three stations on the air.

The operation was forced to end operations on October 7th. This was a day earlier than expected due to the military flight schedule.

According to their Web page, they have made a total of 50,427 QSOs with 15,250 unique callsigns. Of these some 24,235 were on CW, 21,080 on SSB and 5,112 scored the path using RTTY.

The QSL Manager for this operation is Didier Senmartin, F5OGL. And we will have more DX related news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (Southgate)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO AND THE CHICAGO MARATHON

Ham radio helped make the recent Bank of America Chicago Marathon an overwhelming success. The race took place on Sunday, October 11th with about 75 hams helping to coordinate the event while providing a safety web to oversee the almost 35,000 runners.

Coordinating the ham radio aspect of the event was Jerry Martin, KC9BDA, of Beech Park, Illinois. He assembled a team that came from ARES. RACES, SATERN, the local American Red Cross chapters and many other local clubs. The hams set up two- separate networks covering medical emergencies and logistics. They also manned 21 aid and medical stations while maintaining liaison with other volunteer groups and the National Weather Service.

The communications effort began in the wee hours of the morning and lasted until the final runner crossed the finish line. Hams mainly used dual band handhelds backed up by portable battery operated high power stations to communicate over the 26.2 mile course. Several repeaters donated their services and were held on stand-by in case they were needed

The winner of the men's competition was Kenya's Sammy Wanjiru, with a total time of 2 hours, 5 minutes and 41 seconds. The women's first place went to Liliya Shobukhova of Russia. She completed the course in 2 hours, 25 minutes and 56 seconds. There were also separate competitions for handcycle and wheelchair entries as well.

All of the ham radio operators who volunteered to provide communications were required to have previous experience in public service events. (WB9QZB, others)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: THE ISTANBUL MARATHON

Chicago is not the only place that ham radio is involved in a marathon event. Members of the TRAC Istanbul Branch will activate their new club station using the special callsign TC1IEM between October 16th to the 18th. This to assist and commemorate the 2009 Istanbul Eurasia Marathon.

The Istanbul Eurasia Marathon is the only race of its type that starts in Asia and ends in Europe. All of the commemorative operations will take place on the high frequency bands. More on the race is on-line at www.istanbulmarathon.org (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Zero Beaters Amateur Radio Club's WA0FYA repeater serving Dutzow, Missouri.

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: HOW THE SOCAL 2 METER CEMENT JAMMER WAS FOUND

A follow-up to last week's story of the proposed $4000 FCC fine that was levied against the Shimmick Construction Company and Obayashi Corporation for illegally operating in the amateur two-meter band. This was an excellent example of the close cooperation that now exists between the Los Angeles area FCC office and hams in the Official Observer and Amateur Auxiliary program. Amateur Radio Newsline's Joe Moell, K0OV, has the rest of the story in this report:

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It all started in late April, when hams in central and northern Orange County began hearing conversations on 146.025 MHz, the output of K6SOA/R, which is owned by the South Orange Amateur Radio Association or SOARA. The transmissions were clearly for business and appeared to be related to construction work. SOARA has regular hidden transmitter hunts, so some of the club members were already equipped to go into action to find the source. Two of them, Richard Saunders, K6RBS and Richard Clark, N6UZS, reported strong signals in the cities of Orange and Costa Mesa. However, the strength and direction of bearings were not the same from one day to the next.

Other transmitter hunters and members of the Official Observer corps soon joined in. The search wasn't simple because the activity wasn't daily and it was sporadic on the days when it occurred. Next came reports of strong signals in Anaheim and Yorba Linda. Between the cuss words, the T-hunters heard conversations suggesting that they were listening to the handi-talkies of a concrete supplier at various job sites around the county.

On May 21, Dan Welch W6DFW, the Orange Section Official Observer Coordinator, hit pay dirt at a construction site of the Diemer Filtration Plant in Yorba Linda. His photos and recordings went to the FCC and within a week, the interference was gone. It should be noted that the concrete supply firm had obtained its handi-talkies from a commercial two-way radio supplier, which had mistakenly programmed them to transmit and receive on 146.025 MHz instead of 156.025 MHz. With no frequency readout and with tone squelch operational in their receivers, the concrete workers could not hear the SOARA repeater and had no idea that they were using an Amateur Radio frequency. Nevertheless, as the licensee for the radios, Shimmick-Obayashi got the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture and will have to either appeal it, pay the fine, or try to get their radio supplier to do so.

>From southern California, where our regular T-hunts keep us ready to find intruders to our bands at a moment's notice, this is Joe Moell K0OV for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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The ham radio community in southern California developed a close working rapport with the local FCC office several years ago during the investigation into the activities of convicted jammer Jack Gerritsen. >From this latest quick enforcement action one might speculate that the relationship appears to be cast in concrete. (K0OV, ARNewsline(tm))

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED UK BROADCASTER GETS BANNED FROM ROOFTOPS

The British may have stumbled on a unique solution to keep pirate broadcasters off the air. Don't let them have outdoor antennas. Don Carlson, KQ6FM, has more:

--

An unlicensed broadcaster has been banned from every roof top in London, England. This, after he pleaded guilty to installing pirate radio equipment on a tower in the city.

According to a report on UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom website, Kieran O'Sullivan received the anti-social behavior order following a successful prosecution by the regulatory agency. He also received an 18 week custodial sentence suspended for 12 months, a three month curfew, a ï¿½1,200 fine, and had his radio equipment seized.

Ofcom worked with Camden Council and police to secure the prosecution following complaints from residents about Freeze FM operating from estates in Hampstead. Neighbors had complained about pirate radio operators using roof tops to install equipment, which caused a nuisance to residents and damaged property.

And I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

You can read the full Ofcom report
http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consumer/2009/09/pirate-radio-rooftop-ban/
(Ofcom, BBC, others)

**

RADIO LAW: NEW ON-LINE FEDERAL REGISTER LAUNCHED

The Federal Register online version is now in an easier-to-read format at Data.gov. Now in XML format it is it easier to transport data from a Web site and store it, manipulate it or customize it elsewhere.

The Federal Register is published by the Office of the Federal Register. It in turn is a part of the National Archives and Records Administration and is updated Monday through Friday except on federal holidays.

The register went online in 1994 and is the official publication for rules, proposed rules and notices of federal agencies and organizations. It also provides executive orders and other presidential documents. (RW)

**

HAMVENTION 2010: AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS WORLDWIDE: THE LIFELINE

"Amateur Radio Clubs Worldwide: The Lifeline" will be the theme of the 2010 Dayton Hamvention slated for next May 14th to the 16th at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. According to Asst. General Chairman Michael Kalter, W8CI, we all recognize how much amateur radio clubs and organizations contribute to the service. This is especially true in the way clubs pull together in disasters, field days, contests, working with youth, teaching classes, and sponsoring hamfests. And says Kalter there are parts of the world where a ham radio club truly is the communication link to the world.

In order to help celebrate the world of radio clubs, Hamvention planners are asking for pictures from radio clubs around the world that it can use on the front and back cover of the Hamvention 2010 program magazine. It is also looking for stories of interest from interesting radio clubs as well.

In other Hamvention related news, Kalter says that all of our volunteer committee chairs and their assistants are in place for 2010 and have been meeting to make this the best Hamvention you have ever attended. He also notes that the organizations new online program for taking and tracking orders is up and running. He notes that many hours have been spent since he close of Hamvention 2009 to make all of these necessary improvements. The site can be accessed at www.hamvention.org so you have the chance to make your 2010 plans early. (Dayton Hamventionï¿½)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: HAM RADIO CRUISE NIGHT IN VIRGINIA IN MAY 2010

Many of you are familiar with cruise-in events at restaurants, drive-ins, shopping centers or other venues. That's where participants bring their cars, trucks and motorcycles to display and compete for awards.

Ham radio operators are also proud of the time and effort invested in transportable stations and one radio club feels its time for them to show off as well. The Albemarle Amateur Radio Club in Central Virginia will sponsor the first Virginia Ham Radio Cruise-In from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m Eastern time on Saturday, May 1st, 2010. And like automotive buffs, this will be a chance for hams to meet, greet and show off their mobile and portable gear.

If it sounds like fun to you can get more information from Jim Crosby, K4JEC. His e-mail address is jecrosby at comast dot net (K4JEC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: K7CR STEPS DOWN AS CHAIRMAN OF SBE EAS COMMITTEE

Some names in the news. First up is well known Washington state amateur and repeater coordination pioneer Clay Freinwald, K7CR. He is stepping down from the board of the Society of Broadcast Engineers due to term limits and is also leaving his post as chairman of the SBE's EAS Committee for the same reason.

Freinwald, who holds an Extra Class license and was instrumental in the formation of the Western Washington Amateur Relay Association is identified as closely as anyone in the broadcast industry with the EAS. He is a past recipient of Radio World Magazine's Excellence in Engineering Award and has served on the SBE board and chaired the EAS committee for a decade.

K7CR says that he will continue working with the committee under the new chairman, Ralph Beaver. Beaver operates a company known as Media Alert based in Tampa, Florida. (RW)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: UK FILM MAKER TO WORK WITH RADIO CLUBS

And UK filmmaker Esther Johnson is planning to use three different amateur radio clubs based in the London area. This, to set up a radio station during an exhibition of her work on 23rd, 24th and 25th October. The stations will accompany Johnson's 16mm film Tune In that she produced in 2006, and which focuses on amateur radio. Johnson will also be exhibiting photography of radio enthusiasts alongside her film work. Further information on Tune In can be found at www.blanchepictures.com/films/tunein.htm. (RSGB)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: G5RV LAST LOGBOOK SAVED IN EBAY AUCTION

And the final log/book of one of the UK's best-known radio amateurs has been saved for posterity.

The late Louis Varney, G5RV, was one of the founder members of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society in 1936. When Chelmsford club member Duncan Munro, M0KGK, spotted that G5RV's last ever logbook was being auctioned on e-bay the club decided to buy it.

M0KGK did the bidding and despite fierce competition managed to secure the logbook in the last eight seconds of auction. The logbook shows that G5RV's final QSO's were on January 11 2000 with G0WGP and Chelmsford club President Harry Heap, G5HF. Ironically, the entry appeared on page 73 of the logbook. Varney was, of course using a G5RV antenna that he designed for those final contacts (M5AKA, Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: KEN JOHNSON, W6FU - S.K.

The changing of the guard in amateur radio continues. This with word that Ken Johnson, W6FU, died of cancer on October 2.

Together with Don Wilson, K6RKE, Johnson founded educational FM station KPCS which later became KPCC. He also taught broadcasting classes at Pasadena City College for many years and also served as trustee of the college's W6BAB Amateur Radio station,.

Ken then traveled with the Los Angeles Dodgers, engineering their remote broadcasts for KWKW. Working with Jaime Jarrin, he saw four World Series Championships and collected countless stories.

A memorial service was to be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 10th at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Pasadena. Ken Johnson, W6FU was age 89. (CGC, N6LL)

**

WORLDBEAT: WIA TURNS 100 IN 2010

The Wireless Institute of Australia turns 100 next year, making it the world's oldest national radio society. Now, its President, Michael Owen, VK3KI, says he wants the world-wide amateur radio community to join in the celebration. A commemorative QSL card will be issued for contacts with special events station VK100WIA between May and October of 2010. A limited edition operating award, called the WIA Centenary

Award is also to be available with two contacts with VK100WIA are required under its rules. Details of the centenary program can be found on the WIA website at www.wia.org.au. (WIA)

**

WORLDBEAT: D-STAR NOW REPRESENTED ON RSGB'S EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

D-Star will now be represented on the Radio Society of Great Britain's Emerging Technology Committee. According to the RSGB announcement, as D-Star and digital voice communication continues to grow, it has become apparent that there is ever-increasing reliance on the Trust Servers that comprise the network infrastructure.

The administration of this network within the UK is carried out by the UKIT team who came together voluntarily to take on this vital role. The RSGB says that it wants to build upon the excellent work done by the team by giving it a more permanent structure. Following discussions at the recent UK National Hamfest, it has been agreed that they will become part of the Emerging Technology Committee. G7LWT will represent the UKIT on the committee while the other members will work on a corresponding basis. (RSGB, Southgate)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: KEYBOARDS THAT LEAK YOUR DATA

And if you think that the letters and numbers you type on your computers keyboard are secure because you have a good firewall, you might want to guess again. While your on-line connection might keep you invisible to others on the net, your keyboard could be sharing your data with anyone in range of your PC. Frank Lusa, VK2FJL, reports:

--

Audio report only Hear it by downloading this weeks MP3 version of the newscast at www.arnewsline.org.

--

One solution is to try shielding your keyboard cable if you are worried about information leaks. (WIA News)

**

CONTEST CORNER: THE NY QSO PARTY IS BACK

In contest news, its been away for a quarter of a century but the Rochester DX Association says that the New York QSO Party is back. The 2009 edition will take place on Saturday, October 17th, starting at 1800 UTC and running for the next 12 hours. For rules, county maps and log submissions take your web browser to www.NYQP.org (Via E-Mail)

**

DX

In DX, HA0HW reports that a group has begun a year long operation from different Hungarian National Parks. The first of these operating events took place from the Hortobï¿½gy National Park from October 12th to the 18th using the callsign HG0WFF. Their QSL manager is HA0HW but cards sent via the bureau are OK.

And a team headed by G3KHZ will be in Papua New Guinea from October 22nd through the 9th of November. Activity will be on 160 through 15 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. Full details and QSL routing is on the web at www.425dxn.org.

DO1BEN and DO1IQ will be active portable PD from Texel Island between October 16th and the 22nd. Activity will be on the HF bands, propagation permitting. QSL via their home callsigns with the Bureau preferred.

A Dutch team plans to be active from Benin through the 30th of October. Check their website at www.benin2009.com for more information.

Lastly, JE2EHP, will be active as 4X stroke K1HP from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem Israel between October 29th and November 5th. His operation will be on all the High Frequency bands plus 6 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL is via the bureau to JE2EHP.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: D-STAR REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

And finally this week the story of a ham who has taken D-Star to a new height. New height as in 13,000 feet in the sky. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has the details:

--

According to his posting on the D-Star Reflector, on Saturday October 10 Mark Meltzer, AF6IM, of Palo Alto California went sky-diving and brought along an Icom IC 91AD D-Star enabled handie talkie.

Meltzer says that on his first jump he opened his chute at about 13,000 feet and worked numerous 2 meter analog FM simplex contacts. He also held a couple of analog FM QSOs on 1.2 GHz through the W6CYX and W6LRW linked repeater system on 1282.225.

At about 8000 ft he decided to try D-Star but heard only a garbled R2D2 sounding reply. At the time Mark says that he was flying his canopy away from Mt. Diablo which placed my body between the repeater and the IC 91AD's antenna. So he turned towards Mt. Diablo and the distortion went away and he was able to work Rick Mc Cusker, WF6O, in Sacramento clearly through the machine.

AF6IM notes that he was also carrying analog APRS gear that not only reported GPS derived data that not only included his altitude heading

and speed but also his blood oxygen level and pulse rate. He also thanks WF6O for being the other half of the D-Star parachute mobile contact and especially to Tim Barrett, K6BIV for making it all possible with his D-Star repeater system.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF in the newsroom near Los Angeles and wondering why anyone would want to jump out of a perfectly good airplane.

--

The jump took place at Byron, California which is a favorite area for sky diving. Byron, California is also home to the somewhat well-known and historical Byron Hot Springs. This is a now-abandoned resort which was a retreat that attracted many movie stars and famous athletes in the early 1900s. More information and telemetry data on AF6IM's accomplishment is on line at www.parachutemobile.org D-Star Reflector)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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464. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-16 19:49:57 UTC
From: danfoxartNOSPAM@yahoo.com
Message-ID: <20091016115359.773$MV@newsreader.com>
Source record: 1774

helmsman@wowway.com wrote:

>
> CW,USB,LSB,AM,WIN-PSK
> Had a tower and tri band beams @ 50' and a 1500 watt amplifier but I'm
> to old to climb so I gave them to a young ham.

I didn't know there were any young hams anymore.

73, Dan
(Licensed continuously from age 12, in 1955)

465. FCC Daily Digest 10/20/2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-21 11:31:47 UTC
From: noreply@info.fcc.gov
Message-ID: <ADMIN-44256-298425-2009.10.21-06.47.13--rec-radio-info#panix.com@info.fcc.gov>
Source record: 1775
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Daily Digest

Vol. 28 No. 207 October
20, 2009

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE DATED AND RELEASED TODAY:

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Report No: 47094 Released: 10/20/2009. BROADCAST ACTIONS. MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294063A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294063A2.txt

Report No: 27094 Released: 10/20/2009. BROADCAST APPLICATIONS. MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294062A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294062A2.txt

Released: 10/20/2009. EX PARTE PRESENTATIONS AND POST-REPLY COMMENT
PERIOD FILING IN PERMIT-BUT-DISCLOSURE PROCEEDINGS (1 OF 2). OMD .
Contact: Jason Lewis at (202) 418-0310
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294097A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294097A1.txt

Released: 10/20/2009. EX PARTE PRESENTATIONS AND POST-REPLY COMMENT
PERIOD FILING IN PERMIT-BUT-DISCLOSURE PROCEEDINGS (2 OF 2). OMD .
Contact: Jason Lewis at (202) 418-0310
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294098A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294098A1.txt

Released: 10/20/2009. AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS DURING
GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS. (DA No. 09-2259). WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.txt

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ADDENDA: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, RELEASED OCTOBER 19, 2009, DID NOT APPEAR
IN DIGEST NO. 206:

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Released: 10/19/2009. RURAL BROADBAND REPORT PUBLISHED IN FCC RECORD. (DA No. 09-2258). (Dkt No 09-29). WCB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2258A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2258A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2258A1.txt

Released: 10/19/2009. DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF LOWRY TELEPHONE COMPANY, LLC FROM NORTH HOLDINGS, INC. TO RUNESTONE TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION. (DA No. 09-2253). (Dkt No 09-188) NON-STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED. Comments Due: 11/02/2009. Reply Comments Due: 11/09/2009. WCB . Contact: Tracey Wilson-Parker at (202) 418-1394 or Jodie May at (202) 418-0913
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2253A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2253A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2253A1.txt

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TEXTS

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RCN CORPORATION. Granted the Petition. Action by: Chief, Media Bureau. Adopted: 10/09/2009 by ORDER. (DA No. 09-2260). MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2260A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2260A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2260A1.txt

COUNTY OF CHARLES, MARYLAND AND SPRINT NEXTEL CORPORATION. Approved certain portions of Charles County's estimated consultant and vendor costs and disapprove other portions of these estimated costs. (Dkt No. 02-55). Action by: Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. Adopted: 10/19/2009 by MO&O. (DA No. 09-2252). PSHSB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2252A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2252A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2252A1.txt

466. Re: FCC Daily Digest 10/20/2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-21 19:19:03 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <tblud5h4a5a1qim174rn78jr5jmkndhr80@4ax.com>
Source record: 1776

On Wed, 21 Oct 2009 07:31:47 EDT, noreply@info.fcc.gov wrote:

> Released: 10/20/2009. AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS DURING
>GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS. (DA No. 09-2259). WTB
>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.doc
>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.pdf
>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.txt
>

For our local ARES/RACES group, this is going to complicate our drill planning. Our RACES Radio Officer is employed by the County Emergency Management Dept. More red tape.

Dick AC7EL

467. Re: FCC Daily Digest 10/20/2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-21 19:29:04 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9CAB934EBADA0VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1777

In news:tblud5h4a5a1qim174rn78jr5jmkndhr80@4ax.com Richard
<rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:

> On Wed, 21 Oct 2009 07:31:47 EDT, noreply@info.fcc.gov wrote:
>
>> Released: 10/20/2009. AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS DURING
>>GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS. (DA No. 09-2259). WTB
>>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.doc
>>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.pdf
>>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.txt
>>
>
> For our local ARES/RACES group, this is going to complicate our drill
> planning. Our RACES Radio Officer is employed by the County Emergency
> Management Dept. More red tape.

Does this bear on your situation?

The FCC.s Report and Order, FCC 06-149, 21 FCC Rcd.11643,
released October 10, 2006, clarifies the rules for employees by
stating that ��Section 97.113 does not prohibit amateur radio
operators who are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief
from using the amateur service bands while on paid duty status.
These individuals are not receiving compensation for
transmitting amateur service communications; rather, they are
receiving compensation for services related to their disaster
relief duties and in their capacities as emergency personnel.��

http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

468. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-22 06:00:03 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1256191201@panix.com>
Source record: 1778
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

469. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-22 06:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1256191500@panix.com>
Source record: 1779
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

470. Re: FCC Daily Digest 10/20/2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-22 13:51:36 UTC
From: Richard <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <5q00e59nfbh9ovbadn0k3vo6qggenl72o9@4ax.com>
Source record: 1780

On Wed, 21 Oct 2009 15:29:04 EDT, Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com> wrote:

>In news:tblud5h4a5a1qim174rn78jr5jmkndhr80@4ax.com Richard
><rng@richbonnie.com> wrote:
>
>> On Wed, 21 Oct 2009 07:31:47 EDT, noreply@info.fcc.gov wrote:
>>
>>> Released: 10/20/2009. AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS DURING
>>>GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS. (DA No. 09-2259). WTB
>>>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.doc
>>>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.pdf
>>>http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.txt
>>>
>>
>> For our local ARES/RACES group, this is going to complicate our drill
>> planning. Our RACES Radio Officer is employed by the County Emergency
>> Management Dept. More red tape.
>
>Does this bear on your situation?
>
> The FCC.s Report and Order, FCC 06-149, 21 FCC Rcd.11643,
> released October 10, 2006, clarifies the rules for employees by
> stating that ï¿½ï¿½Section 97.113 does not prohibit amateur radi
o
> operators who are emergency personnel engaged in disaster relief
> from using the amateur service bands while on paid duty status.
> These individuals are not receiving compensation for
> transmitting amateur service communications; rather, they are
> receiving compensation for services related to their disaster
> relief duties and in their capacities as emergency personnel.ï¿½
ï¿½
>
>http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf

Not really.

The October 10, 2006 R&O applies only in actual emergencies. The 2009
Public Notice reiterates that position, but adds that they cannot use
ham bands for drills without special waivers.

In the Yahoo group "Amateur Radio", I saw this posted:

+ Subject: [amateur_radio] Fw: [LEARC] Digest Number 645 / Ham
+ Explains Why Hes Quitting EMMCOMM At Work
+ From: LJ Dumas <n2ljd@yahoo.com>
+ Date: Fri, 18 Sep 2009 06:34:28 -0700 (PDT)

+
+
+
+ I'm sure some/many of you have seen this; but I think it's important
+ to get this 'out there' both for the chilling effect on ARES and
+ because of the negative view of EMCOMM by many hams noted further
+ down.
+
+
+ 73
+
+
+ L Joseph Dumas
+ N2LJD/4
+ WQFE734
+ ARRL VE
+ FISTS 11132
+ DOS (Digital On Six) 387
+ Fairfax Co (VA) ARES Training Officer
+
+
+ "I prefer the wicked rather than the foolish. The wicked sometimes
rest." - Alexandre Dumas (pï¿½re)
+
+
+ --- On Fri, 9/18/09, LEARC@yahoogroups.com <LEARC@yahoogroups.com>
wrote:
+
+
+ > From: LEARC@yahoogroups.com <LEARC@yahoogroups.com>
+ > Subject: [LEARC] Digest Number 645
+ > To: LEARC@yahoogroups.com
+ > Date: Friday, September 18, 2009, 7:31 AM
+ > There is 1 message in this issue.
+ >
+ > Topics in this digest:
+ >
+ > 1. Ham Explains Why Hes Quitting EMMCOMM At Work
+ >
+ > From: N2OBS
+ >
+ >
+ > Message
+ > ____
+ > 1. Ham Explains Why Hes Quitting EMMCOMM At Work
+ > Posted by: "N2OBS" wucherer1968@yahoo.com
+ > wucherer1968
+ > Date: Fri Sep 18, 2009 4:12 am ((PDT))
+ >
+ > To the group, would like to know your thoughts of the

+ > recent subject of amateur radio with emergency
+ > communications. This text came from the amateur radio
+ > newsline and since its topic is about amateur radio and
+ > emergency communications thought to share with the
+ > group. 73
+ >
+ > ENFORCEMENT: HAM EXPLAINS WHY HES QUITTING EMMCOMM AT
+ > WORK
+ >
+ > A ham who posted on an Internet website that he had
+ > assisted in an
+ > emergency communications drill at work has come forward to
+ > explain why he was contacted about his action by FCC ham
+ > radio rules enforcer Laura Smith. Amateur Radio
+ > Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more:
+ >
+ > --
+ >
+ > In his posting to the QRZ.com website, Jeffery Casselberry,
+ > W0WLS, says that last July he volunteered to take part in a
+ > state sanctioned
+ > communication drill which was backed by the Missouri
+ > Hospital
+ > Association. At that time he was the only licensed
+ > amateur in the
+ > facility so he said yes.
+ >
+ > According to Casselberry this drill took place during
+ > business hours
+ > while he was on the clock. He explained that he had
+ > built the amateur station for the hospital and with it the
+ > facility better than most in communicating locally and to
+ > the state capital.
+ >
+ > W0WLS went on to say that he was so thrilled about the
+ > drills success
+ > that what he made what he terms as the mistake of posting
+ > his
+ > excitement on the QRZ website. Someone who read it
+ > decided to cut and paste his comments and send them
+ > off to the FCC. As a result, W0WLS says that he
+ > received an informal email from the FCC's Smith
+ > acknowledging his violation and requesting a response.
+ >
+ > Casselberry says that he responded to Smith and explained
+ > in detail the events of his alleged violation. Smith
+ > responded with the following e-mail which reads as follows
+ > and we quote:
+ >
+ > "Jeff: Again, just so we are clear, Section 97.113 (a)(3)

+ > of the
+ > Commission's rules specifically states that "no amateur
+ > station shall
+ > transmit: communications in which the station licensee or
+ > control
+ > operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications
+ > on behalf
+ > of an employer." This means that if you are an employee of
+ > the hospital you may not operate the amateur equipment on
+ > their behalf even after hours or while you are on a break.
+ > The operation of the amateur equipment must be conducted
+ > strictly by volunteers." -- end quote.
+ >
+ > Casselberry went on to say that he does not want to become
+ > a poster
+ > child for some emergency communications cause on
+ > QRZ.com. He says that he is done with this type of ham
+ > radio activity and it will never happen again. He's
+ > even gone so far as to tell his employer that he is done
+ > with this type of radio activity and will take no further
+ > part in it's emergency communications program.
+ >
+ > W0WLS ends by noting that he is a hobbyist and don't need
+ > this sort of turmoil in my life. As such, he will make
+ > no further comments on this issue.
+ >
+ > I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona, reporting
+ > for the
+ > Amateur Radio Newsline.
+ >
+ > ftp://ftp.arnewsline.org/quincy/News/news.txt
+ >
+ > From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio
+ > Newsline,
+ > heard on bulletin stations around the world including the
+ > NS9RC
+ > repeater of the North Shore Amateur Radio Club and their
+ > net serving
+ > Highland Park Illinois.
+ >
+ > (5 sec pause here)
+ >
+ > RADIO RULES: PECUNIARY INTEREST - A QST
+ > EDITORIAL BY K1ZZ
+ >
+ > Whether or not you are a member of the ARRL, the editorial
+ > in the
+ > September issue of QST Magazine is must reading for any
+ > radio amateur
+ > who is even remotely concerned over the rising problem of

+ > ham radio
+ > being used for things its was never intended. We are
+ > talking about the attempt to commercialize the hobby by some
+ > cities, towns and employers under the guise of it being
+ > emergency preparedness. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in
+ > our newsroom with more:
+ >
+ > --
+ >
+ > Titled "It Seems To Us: Pecuniary Interest" the editorial
+ > was penned by ARRL Executive Officer Dave Sumner,
+ > K1ZZ. In it he takes a close look at the level to
+ > which ham radio emergency communications has matured to
+ > where its looked upon as being among the most reliable in
+ > the world. And because of this, there are some who
+ > would exploit it as a way to have an emergency
+ > communications or public service network available and on
+ > call at little or no cost to a given business or
+ > municipality.
+ >
+ > Indeed, Sumner cites one case of a medical worker who
+ > objected to the
+ > FCC interpretation of rule 97.113(a)(3). This when
+ > that unnamed worker was told that employees cannot transmit
+ > communications on behalf of the hospital while on
+ > duty.
+ >
+ > Sumner's editorial says that the ARRL Board of Directors is
+ > already
+ > looking at the problem, but he really implies that it is
+ > the nations
+ > ham community that must think carefully about what its
+ > being asked to
+ > do by municipalities, service providers and employers
+ > before signing
+ > on. K1ZZ notes that there are other radio
+ > services designated for the purpose of routine business
+ > communications and warns that ham radio must not permit
+ > itself to be exploited by those who are to frugal to use
+ > them.
+ >
+ > For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF,
+ > in the City of Angels.

Dick, AC7EL

471. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1680 - October 23 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-22 17:32:14 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091022102648.0182fa80@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1781
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1680 - October 23 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1680 with a release date of Friday, October 23rd, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC issues a public notice on ham radio operators being paid by entities holding emergency training drills as the ARRL plans a web seminar on the topic of pecuniary interest in amateur radio. Also, South Africa's Sumbandillasat comes on the air, the I-A-R-U Administrative Council meets down under and a truly rare on for S-W-L's. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1680 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC ISSUES PUBLIC NOTICE ON AMATEUR SERVICE COMMUNICATIONS DURING GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS

The FCC appears to be offering a kind of limited legal olive branch to government entities in need of ham radio operators to perform emergency communications during drills. This, while the ham is on the clock for an employer who might be sponsoring or involved in the event. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Carlson, KQ6FM, takers a look at what the FCC has to say:

--

In its October 20th public notice, the FCC begins by reiterating that transmissions by amateur stations participating in government disaster drills must comply with all applicable Amateur Service rules. It agrees that the value of the amateur service to the public is that of a voluntary noncommercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications is one of the underlying principles of the amateur service. At the same time the agency is adamant that the Amateur Service is not an emergency radio service unto itself.

Rather, says the regulatory agency, ham radio is a voluntary, non-commercial communication service. It is authorized for the purpose of self-training, intercommunication and technical investigations. This, as carried out by licensed persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest. In other words, nobody involved in the use of ham radio on the air can directly or indirectly profit from it.

The FCC then goes on to say that state and local government public safety agencies occasionally conduct emergency preparedness or disaster drills that include amateur operations. Some entities, such as hospitals, emergency operations centers, and police, fire, and emergency medical service stations, have expressed interest in having their employees who are amateur station operators participate in these drills by transmitting messages on the entity's behalf. The Commission's Rules, however, specifically prohibit amateur stations from transmitting communications in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer.

But here is where that olive branch of sorts comes in. The FCC release goes on to say that given the public interest in facilitating government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drills, that the FCC will take this opportunity to provide a clear process for requesting a waiver, and provide the information that it required in order for it to consider granting such a request. And this is what the FCC says has to be done.

First, you the ham radio operator cannot request the waiver. Only the government agency or entity that you work for can do that. In other words, waiver requests should be submitted to the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau by the government entity conducting the drill, and must provide the following information:

First, when and where the drill will take place. Second, the identification of the amateur licensees expected to transmit amateur communications on behalf of their employers. Third is the identification of the employers on whose behalf the hams will be transmitting and lastly, a brief description of the drill.

The FCC emphasizes that the filing of a waiver request does not excuse compliance with the rules while that request is pending. Rather that the waiver must be requested prior to the drill, and employees may not transmit amateur communications on their employer's behalf unless the waiver request has been granted.

So what does this mean for Joe Ham whose employer wants him to take part in an emergency drill. If we interpret this correctly, it the employer is part of a city, state or federal agency and, if the FCC feels that the drill is important enough to issue a waiver, then those hams can take part. But only after the waiver has been issued and only during the time period that its grant is in force.

On the other hand, if Joe Ham works for some commercial organization that' s not eligible to obtain a waiver, then its best to say no, rather than to put his license on the line.

Lastly, the FCC notes that in an actual emergency, the Commission's Rules provide that an amateur station may use any means of radio-communication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and the

immediate protection of property when normal communication systems are not available. In those circumstances says the FCC, a rule waiver is not necessary.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM, in Reno.

--

The FCC release says that for further information regarding matters discussed in this Public Notice, to please contact William T. Cross of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. The best way is by email to william dot cross at fcc dot gov. You can download and read the entire notice at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.pdf (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: ARRL TO HOLD WEB SEMINAR ON PECUNIARY INTEREST IN HAM RADIO

Meantime, ARRL General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND, will present a web-based conference. This, to discuss the issues behind, and the reasoning for the League's recent report titled The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks. That's the ARRL's position paper on pecuniary interest as it relates to the United States Amateur Radio Service.

The session will take place on Wednesday, October 28th beginning at 9 PM Eastern Daylight Time. According to ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, who is the sessions sponsor, all amateurs need to be aware of these issues.

The on-line gathering is available at no cost and is open to all amateurs. To register for this interactive web based meeting, go to https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/326759760 (ARRL)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUMBANDILLSAT IS ON THE AIR

The first contacts have been made using the newly launched SumbandilaSat ham radio payloads and it sounded like this:

--

Satellite QSO audio. Hear it by downloading this weeks MP3 audio newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

According to the official mission blog, at 07:48 UTC during the first morning pass of Sunday, October 18th, controllers activated the voice beacon on 435.350 MHz. They then switched on the transponder with is uplink is on 145.880 MHz with a downlink 435.350 MHz.

Later in the day, during the first evening pass at 19:13 UTC, several radio amateurs were heard operating through the satellite transponder. Thankfully, controllers had the foresight to preserve the moment for posterity:

--

Satellite QSO audio. Hear it by downloading this weeks MP3 audio newscast at www.arnewsline.org

--

It was a moment of triumph for everyone who worked for years to design, build and launch Sumbandillasat. You can hear more of these initial and QSO's through this new South African ham radio satellite at http://previews.matogen.com/sunspace/assets/galleries/sounds/Sumbandila-Firs tActivePass-Recording-2009-10-18.mp3 (SA-AMSAT)

**

RESCUE RADIO: SUMATRA BOUND HAM IS ON THE SATS

A ham involved in rescue radio is on his way to help earthquake ravaged Sumatra and is on the air via the ham radio satellites.

Jim Clary, ND9M, who also holds the call VQ9JC is presently deployed on a Navy ship heading for Sumatra on a humanitarian mission. This, to deliver fresh water for the victims of the recent earthquakes there.

While enroute he has been active on the ham radio satellites using a Yaesu FT897 as a transmitter and an FT817 for a receiver. The antenna is an using an Arrow and hes using a battery from an uninteruptabe power supply or U-P-S to power the station operating from the Helicopter Pad on the ship. Clary says there isn't much activity in the Indian Ocean but he is working VU's and E21's and handing out rare water grids as he whiles away the time until the ship reaches Sumatra. (ANS)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Twin City Amateur Radio Club net serving Champaign and Urbanna Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

BREAKING NEWS: C6APR CONTEST TEAM KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF with sad news that the C6APR contest team has been killed in an aviation accident on their way to to the Bahamas to operate the CQ World Wide DX contest.

Peter Radding, W2GJ, Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Randy Hargenrader, K4QO and Dallas Carter, W3PP, lost their lives the morning of Wednesday, October 21st. This, when the twin engine Piper Aztec they were traveling on crashed shortly after takeoff from Summerville Airport in rural South Carolina. The operators were on their way to Crooked Island, Bahamas, for the annual operating event.

We will have more on this tragic story next week. (Various sources)

**

RADIO POLITICS: IARU AC MEETS DOWN-UNDER

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union held its annual meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand on October 17th and 18th. Numerous points were agreed upon. Each will have a profound effect on the future of the world-wide amateur radio service. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, takes a look at a few of them;

--

We won't go into the minute details, but among the most important items was the review of a strategic plan for the development of support for amateur radio frequency allocations was reviewed for the period through 2012. The principal focus is on preparations for the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference with an eye at getting a new amateur allocation in the vicinity of 500 kHz.

Another important point was adoption of a policy statement explaining the status of the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference or GAREC. This, with respect to the International Amateur Radio Union. According to the meeting report, the Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference functions as an informal meeting of I-A-R-U member-societies and of amateur radio emergency groups within or outside of the respective national IARU member-society. The gathering serves as a forum for the exchange of experience and as an advisory body for the emergency communications work of the IARU.

And still in the area of emergency communications, the Administrative Council noted that the three I-A-R-U regions have reached consensus on three global Center of Activity frequencies for use in the event of emergencies. These frequencies are 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz.

As a result of failure to fulfill their obligations under the IARU Constitution, the rights of several I-A-R-U member-societies were placed temporarily in abeyance. These societies represent hams in Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Suriname.

Last but by no means least, the theme of "Amateur Radio: Combining communication experience with modern digital techniques" has selected for the next World Amateur Radio Day. Tats slated for April 18, 2010.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Merachen, ZL2BHF, In Auckland, New Zealand, reporting for the Amateur radio Newsline.

--

The next scheduled in-person meeting of the International Amateur Radio Union Administrative Council will be held in El Salvador in conjunction with the I-A-R-U Region 2 Conference. That takes place in October 2010. (IARU)

**

INTRUDER WATCH: SSB INTRUDERS ON 14.002 MHZ

If something sounds strange on 20 meter SSB where there should only be Morse, then you have likely stumbled across what appears to be a African pirate radio net. According to Region One Inthruder Watch, this group of likely unlicensed operators can be found every morning from 6:00 to 09:00 U-T-C on 14.002.2 MHz using upper sideband. They converse in what's described as an unknown tribal language they operate like a phone line. Beam headings taken from Germany place the operation at about 180 degrees and possibly putting the operation in central Africa or Angola. No calls have been heard and only names are being used to identify. (NZART, WIA News)

**

ON THE AIR: CANADA'S HAM COMMUNITY TO COMMEMORATE THE 2010 WINTER OLYMPICS

Ham radio will be a part of the 2010 Olympics. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

--

The upcoming Olympic games in Canada will be celebrated on the ham bands. This with word that members of the Vancouver Olympics Amateur Radio Group will be activating three special event stations to promote and commemorate the Vancouver Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in February and March of 2010.

The special activity is already under way and will continue through March 2010. Operations will be on all bands and modes with the first station VG7V on the air from October 1st through November 30th. Then comes VG7W from December 1st of this year through January 31st of 2010. The final call will be VG7G taking to the airwaves on February 1st and continuing through March 31st 2010.

The Vancouver Olympics Amateur Radio Group says that it will be consolidating all contacts and intends to post them electronically to the ARRL's Logbook to the World. In addition, commemorative paper QSL cards for those who want them will be available at the conclusion of the events in April 2010. Cards received via the QSL Bureau will be returned the same way.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

In addition to the commemorative operation radio amateurs will also be handling many of the logistics for the games. Word is that most of this will be short range communications on the 1.3 meter or 220 MHz band using FM and numerous local repeaters. (OPDX)

**

RADIO LAW: SOME IRC'S ABOUT TO EXPIRE

Hams who use International Reply Coupons, or IRC's, in the QSL exchange process are advised to check the expiry dates of their current stock. This is because one batch is due to expire on December 31st. Those are the ones that you need to use up quickly before their value is gone. (GB2RS)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC CRITICIZED OVER KWVE FINE BY 50 STATE BROADCAST ASSN'S

Turning to enforcement news, word that fifty state broadcast associations have signed onto a letter of protest to the Federal Communications Commission about a proposed $5,000 fine against KWVE FM, of San Clemente, California. This, for an EAS mistake by a station staffer.

As reported here on Newsline a few weeks ago, the case goes back about a year. That's when Calvary Chapel station KWVE transmitted an unauthorized Required Monthly Test of the Emergency Alert System. The FCC received a complaint in October 2008 that the station transmitted commercial programming and an ad as part of the test message, which were then re-transmitted by other stations and cable systems in the daisy chain. In response to a letter of Inquiry, the station told the commission one of its employees had intended to run a scheduled weekly EAS test, but ran the unscheduled RMT instead. Also, that the employee failed to transmit the End of Message code.

But in its decision last month, the FCC said KWVE's actions affected other stations. Also, the transmission of EAS tones that are followed by a broadcast that is not part of an EAS test or actual emergency information, whether intentional or accidental, compromises the integrity of the EAS system. The FCC called KWVE's action was willful and that's why it proposed a $5,000 fine.

Now, in their letter protesting the FCC's action against KWVE, the broadcast associations reminded the commission that the station is a volunteer Local Primary One or LP-1. As such, they are concerned that if the commission imposes a substantial fine against an LP-1 for a mistake, it would deter current LP-1's as well as current Primary Entry Point stations from continuing to participate voluntarily in EAS. The broadcast associations also fear the fine would also have a chilling effect preventing new stations from serving as LP-1's or Primary Entry

Point stations.

The associations signing the letter represent radio and television stations in all 50 states as well as stations in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In the letter they ask that the agency either set aside the fine or simply admonish the station. (CGC, RW, others)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

ENFORCEMENT: CBS SAYS FCC VIOLATING ITS CIVIL RIGHTS IN SUPERBOWL CASE

And talk about a novel defense to an FCC accusation of a major broadcast violation. It looks as if CBS might just have come up with one as we hear from Newsline's Jim Davis, W2JKD:

--

CBS Incorporated says that the FCC is violating its constitutional rights in hounding the broadcaster in regard to what's become known as the Superbowl Janet Jackson wardrobe malfunction.. In a Friday filing, October 2nd before the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals, CBS said the FCC has an Ahab-like obsession with the Super Bowl case, comparing the commission to the mad sea captain in Moby-Dick.

CBS lawyers say that this obsession poses an important question. They ask how many years can the FCC prolong a broadcast indecency probe of an un-scripted and unintended event that lasted nine-sixteenths of one second?

CBS says the FCC's obsessive zeal in pursuing the Super Bowl case and the attendant chill on broadcast speech show why First Amendment scrutiny by the court may not just be appropriate, but also necessary. The network also contends in the filing that the notorious wardrobe malfunction was orchestrated by Jackson and duet partner Justin Timberlake without the network's knowledge.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD

--

As previously reported, in September the FCC asked the court to look into whether CBS was reckless when it chose not to use video delay technology for the broadcast. The agency contends that even the fleeting exposure of an entertainers breast that was broadcast over the

airwaves breast violated FCC indecency regulations. (RW)

**

D-STAR NEWS: NEW 23 CM DIASCUSSON GROUP FORMED

A new Internet based reflector group has been created to discuss the use of D-STAR Digital Voice and High-Speed Data on the 1.2 GHz band . Called D-STAR_23cm, the group discussions center around the use of the Icom ID-1 mobile, IC-9100 transceiver, RP-1V and RP-2V digital voice repeaters and all aspects of 23 centimeter data and voice communications using D-Star technology. The group can be joined groups dot yahoo dot com slash D-Star_23 cm (WB9QZB)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FLEXABLE SATELLITE ANTENNAS

Flexible antennas attached to your clothing may work better for GPS or other personal satellite communication reception. That's according to the European Space Agency, as reported by TV Technology's Doug Lung. Firefighters or other emergency personnel may benefit from this technology, according to officials involved in this testing. (Todays Technology)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: IRAN MAY PUT SATELLITE IN THE HAM SATELLITE BANDS

Turning to ham radio space relayed news, there is a possibility that Iran's Mesbah-2 satellite, slated for launch early 2010, could operate on frequencies allocated to the Amateur Satellite Service.

An on-line report at astronautix.com says that the original Mesbah satellite, lost in a 2005 launch failure, was to have operated on Amateur Satellite Service frequencies. Now its being reported that Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Reza Taqipour, has said that the replacement Mesbah satellite has successfully completed pre-launch tests and is now ready for liftoff early next year.

Most observers think that there will be little difference between the transponder set-up between the lost Mesbah satellite on the new replacement bird. More is at www.astronautix.com/craft/mesbah2.htm (Southgate)

**

WORLDBEAT: AUSTRALIA'S WIA NEWS NOW ON TWITTER The Wireless Institute of Australia national news service is now on Twitter. As many of you know, the WIA is the national society for Radio Amateurs in Australia. It joins the growing number of ham radio organizations making use of this service. You can find WIA National News on Twitter at twitter dot com slash VK1WIA. (WIA) ** WORLDBEAT: ARNEWSLINE ON FACEBOOK Also,

remember that Amateur Radio Newsline has created a news discussion page on the Facebook social networking service. You must be a Facebook member to access it. Just go to www dot facebook dot com, join the service, use the search feature to find the Amateur Radio Newsline page and then become a friend of it. We hope to see you there. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

WORLDBEAT: SWEDNS SAQ ON THE AR OCTOBER AND DECEMBER

The historic Alexanderson alternator transmitter located at Grimton, Sweden, will next take to the airwaves on October 24th at 09:00 UTC and again on December 24th at 08:00 UTC.

This museum station is operated by volunteers on special days throughout the year. It transmits CW on the frequency of 17.2kHz signing the call SAQ. If nothing else, the station is well worth listening out for because its C-W is a musical sound and is very unique.

No reports required and no QSL cards are given for the October transmission but QSLs are available for the Christmas Eve transmission. For more information check out www.alexander.n.se. (press release)

**

DX

In DX, word that the ARRL's DXCC desk has approved the recent FT5GA operation from Glorioso Island has been approved for DXCC credit. Ther operation that began on September 14th and ran through October 8th netted more than 50,000 QSO's. Until this operation, Glorioso was number 4 on DX Magazine's Most Wanted list. DL2FAG will be active from Niue and Samoa from October 19th to November 7th. He will operate as ZK2DL from Niue and from 17th to 30th November from Samoa. He plans to operate mainly RTTY, PSK and SSB on 10-80. QSL via his home call.

A German team is on the air on their 26th DXpedition to Lichtenstein where they are operating as HB0 slash HB9AON from Triesenberg. They will be there through October 30th and are active on the. The QSL manager is DJ2YE.

KL7JR reports that plans are underway for the activation of Jacquot Island before and during ARRL's December 11th to the 13th Ten Meter Contest. Listen out for VY1RST to concentrate on 10 meters for the contest and 14.260 for non-contest activities. QSL via KL7JR at his callbook address.

G4OHX, will be active as 5R8HX from Madagascar between this December 28th and January 3rd of 2010. Activity will be mainly CW. QSL via his home callsign, direct only.

Lastly, G7COD will be operational from Embudu Island in Kaafu Atoll the Maldives, until October 25th. He's using the call 8Q7AK on SSB and CW on the 80 through 10 meter bands including WARC frequencies. QSL as directed on the air.

Above from various DX news sources.

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: RADIO ST HELENA DAY - NOVEMBER 14th

And finally this week, if you like to listen out for rare shortwave stations then this is for you. Once again, Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Davis, W2JKD:

--

Radio St. Helena Day will be on Saturday 14th of November 2009. This rare station is located on the Island of St Helena which lies in the South Atlantic off the coast of Angola.

The station normally provides a local radio service to the island and has a range of about 100 km. But once a year it broadcasts internationally on Shortwave at 11.092.5 MHz on upper sideband with its famed Party On-The-Air program.

This years operation will begin at 20:00 UTC and conclude at 01:00 UTC with the last 90 minutes beaming toward North America, Central America and the Caribbean. A special QSL card will be available to confirm reception reports.

To get a QSL from Radio St. Helena, you must send a written and verifiable reception report by Air Mail and include sufficient return postage to Radio St. Helena, P.O. Box 93, Jamestown, St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ, South Atlantic Ocean. Mark your envelope via Air Mail via United Kingdom & Ascension For those not aware, Saint Helena was named after St Helena of Constantinople.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD.

--

And less we forget, E mail reports will be not be verified and off air recordings cannot not be returned. At least that's what the press release says. (Press release)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at

www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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472. The ARRL Letter for October 22, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-22 22:05:40 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091022220512.C273C328337@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1782
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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****************************************
The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
****************************************

October 22, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

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- + Four Radio Amateurs Killed in Plane Crash En Route to CQWW Phone
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Participants
- Solar Update
- This Week on the Radio
- + Amateur Radio in Space: SumbandilaSat Now OSCAR 67

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + REGULATORY: FCC ISSUES PUBLIC NOTICE ON AMATEUR SERVICE
COMMUNICATION DURING GOVERNMENT DISASTER DRILLS

On October 20, 2009, the FCC released a Public Notice clarifying the
Commission's rules relating to the use of Amateur Radio by licensed
amateurs participating in drills and exercises on behalf of their
employers. Entitled Amateur Service Communications During Government
Disaster Drills, the Public Notice addresses participation by paid
employees of organizations taking part in drills.

The Public Notice -- DA 09-2259
<http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2259A1.pdf> --
affirms that the Commission's rules "specifically prohibit amateur
stations from transmitting communications 'in which the station
licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including
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communications on behalf of an employer.'" ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said that "This Public Notice is intended to clarify a difficult issue. A wide range of unofficial -- and frankly some incorrect -- interpretations have been offered on this topic in various public forums recently. DA 09-2259 is the official FCC notice on this issue. Though issued jointly by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB <http://wireless.fcc.gov/>), the Enforcement Bureau (EB <http://www.fcc.gov/eb/>) and the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (PSHSB <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/>) under delegated authority from the Commission, the Notice makes it clear that WTB is the Bureau at the FCC with jurisdiction over the Amateur Radio Service rules and their interpretation."

The Public Notice states that, in order to facilitate participation by employees who wish to engage in government-sponsored drills and emergency exercises on behalf of their employers, a waiver can be requested from the WTB by the government agency sponsoring the drill or exercise (and not by the individual who wishes to participate in the drill or exercise). The government entity conducting the drill must include in its waiver application the following information:

- When and where the drill will take place,
- Identification of the amateur licensees expected to transmit amateur communications on behalf of their employer,
- Identification of the employer(s) on whose behalf the amateur(s) will be transmitting, and
- A brief description of the drill.

"It should be noted," Henderson said, "that the waiver request must be filed and acted upon in advance of the drill. The waiver must be actually granted by the Commission before the amateurs participate in the drill. It is not enough to apply -- the waiver must be granted first."

Henderson added that the Public Notice also emphasizes that in an actual emergency, the Part 97 rules "provide that an amateur station may use any means of radiocommunication at its disposal to provide essential communication needs in connection with the immediate safety of human life and the immediate protection of property when normal communications systems are not available." In those specific circumstances, the rule waiver is not necessary.

Government entities requesting a waiver for their emergency/disaster drill should submit a written request addressing the factors listed above to Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC 20554, Attn: Scot Stone.

A waiver is needed only for those licensees transmitting messages on behalf of their employer during the State and local government public safety agency's "occasionally conducted emergency preparedness or disaster drills test or drill." This may, after analysis, turn out to be very few licenses or, by rearranging functions of participants, a

waiver may not be needed. The Commission has also emphasized that only governmental agencies may apply for a waiver.

In September, the ARRL released guidelines <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/25/11094/?nc=1> that address numerous aspects of the issue of business communications in the Amateur Service.

==> + REGULATORY : ARRL GENERAL COUNSEL, REGULATORY INFORMATION MANAGER TO PRESENT WEBINAR

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/326759760> ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson N1ND, will present a webinar beginning at 9 PM EDT on Wednesday, October 28. This session will discuss the issues behind, and the reasoning for, the ARRL's recent report, The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The Rules, The Risks, The Issues <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf>. <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL_AppropriateUseGuidelines.pdf>According to webinar sponsor and host ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, all amateurs need to be aware of these issues. The webinar, available at no cost, is open to all amateurs. Please click here <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/326759760> to register for this informative interactive Internet meeting.

==> + FOUR RADIO AMATEURS KILLED IN PLANE CRASH EN ROUTE TO CQWW PHONE CONTEST

Just after take-off -- around 6:30 AM on Wednesday, October 21 -- a twin-engine plane carrying four Amateur Radio operators crashed into the woods, only 250 yards off the end of the runway in Jedburg, South Carolina, about 20 miles northwest of Charleston. The plane -- piloted and owned by Peter Radding, W2GJ -- carried Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Dallas Carter, W3PP, and Randy Hargenrader, K4QO. The four men were on their way to the Bahamas to operate in this weekend's CQ World Wide Phone Contest as C6APR, competing in the Multi/2 category. Radding, of North Charleston, South Carolina, was 69; Steeble, of Summerville, South Carolina was 68; Carter, of Laurel, Delaware, was 67 and Hargenrader, also of Summerville, was 55. All were ARRL members; Radding and Steeble were Life Members. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/21/11157/?nc=1> for more information.

Robert Biss, W8ZA, of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, accompanied Steeble, Carter, Radding and Hargenrader to the Bahamas for the 2008 running of the CQWW SSB Contest. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/10/22/11158/?nc=1> for Biss' remembrances of his four friends.

==> + ADVOCACY: HR 2160 GAINS MORE COSPONSORS

As of October 14, five more Congressional Representatives -- Tom Latham (R-IA-4), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA-46), Scott Garrett (R-NJ-5), Candice

Miller (R-MI-10) and John Olver (D-MA-1) -- pledged their support for
HR 2160
<http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&doc
id=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>,
The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009,
bringing the total number of cosponsors to 30, including original
sponsor Sheila Jackson-Lee
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1> (D-TX-18). HR
2160 is also sponsored by W. Todd Akin (R-MO-2), Michael Arcuri
(D-NY-24), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD-6), John Boozman (R-AR-3), Madeleine
Bordallo (D-Guam), Geoff Davis (R-KY-4), Bob Filner (D-CA-51), Bart
Gordon (D-TN-6), Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY-22),
Michael Honda (D-CA-15), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH-15), Zoe Lofgren
(D-CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-9), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI-11),
Charlie Melancon (D-LA-3), Dennis Moore (D-KS-3), Bill Posey (R-FL-15),
Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2), Michael Turner (R-OH-3), Peter Welch (D-VT),
David Wu (D-OR-1) and Don Young (R-AK). Click here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818> for information on
how to encourage your Congressional representative to sponsor HR 2160.

==> + INTERNATIONAL: IARU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ADOPTS PRELIMINARY
WRC-12 POSITIONS

The Administrative Council (AC) of the International Amateur Radio
Union (IARU <http://www.iaru.org/>) held its annual meeting on October
17-18, 2009 in Christchurch, New Zealand and took 16 actions. Attending
the Christchurch meeting were IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA;
Vice President Ole Garpestad, LA2RR; Secretary Rod Stafford, W6ROD;
regional representatives Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T; Dennis Green,
ZS4BS; Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK; Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA; Michael Owen,
VK3KI; Shizuo Endo, JE1MUI; Peter Lake, ZL2AZ, and recording secretary
David Sumner, K1ZZ. The next scheduled in-person meeting of the AC will
be held in the vicinity of San Salvador, El Salvador in conjunction
with the Region 2 Conference in October 2010. The officers will
investigate holding a Web-based "virtual meeting" early in 2010. Click
here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/20/11149/?nc=1> for more
information.

==> DID YOU KNOW? WWV AND WWVH

Today, most amateurs know that radio stations WWV and WWVH broadcast
time and frequency information 24 hours a day, seven days a week to
millions of listeners worldwide. Administered by the National Institute
of Standards and Technology (NIST), WWV is located in Fort Collins,
Colorado, about 60 miles north of Denver; WWVH is located on the Island
of Kauai, Hawaii on a 30 acre site near Kekaha at Kokole Point. Both
stations broadcast information that includes time announcements,
standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a
BCD time code, geophysical alerts, marine storm warnings and Global
Positioning System (GPS) status reports. Most hams today think of WWV
and WWVH as "time stations." According to QST Editor Steve Ford,

WB8IMY, that's only half-true: they are really time and frequency stations. "The time signals that you hear are regulated by an atomic clock that uses the oscillations of Cesium atoms as its standard -- 9,162,361,770 oscillations equal 1 second," wrote Ford in the June 1994 issue of QST. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/21/11155/?nc=1> to discover this part of Amateur Radio history.

==> INTERNATIONAL : IARU OFFICIALS ATTEND REGION 3 CONFERENCE IN NEW ZEALAND

Hosted by the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART), officials from the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) attended the IARU Region 3 14th Triennial Conference on October12-16, in Christchurch, New Zealand. Joel Harrison, W5ZN, ARRL President, represented the ARRL and ARRL Chief Executive Officer and former IARU Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, was also in attendance. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/18/11147/?nc=1> for more information

==> + INTERNATIONAL: ARRL HQ HOSTS AMATEUR RADIO COURSE FOR USTTI PARTICIPANTS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ImJ7LTUeg0> Students from Ghana, Mauritius, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Zambia attended the United States Telecommunications Training Institute (USTTI) Amateur Radio Administration Course (ARAC) at ARRL Headquarters October 12-16. ARRL Technical Relations Manager Brennan Price, N4QX, coordinated the session and led the course. "The curriculum covered a wide variety of Amateur Radio topics and concerns, including licensing, spectrum requirements, disaster communications and antenna requirements," Price said. The curriculum also covered the ITU and its regulations, as well as the process leading to the next World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12). Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/22/11154/?nc=1> for more information.

==> + HISTORICAL: UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS NEED YOUR HELP AS THEY STUDY EARLY AMATEUR STATION LOGS

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin and Miami University of Ohio are seeking copies of amateur station logs from 1913-1927 in hopes they may offer insights into the relationship between individuals' work and leisure activities, technology, and their social networks. "Early hams laid the foundation for today's use of technology for communications and entertainment," said Director of Engineering and Operations for Wisconsin Public Radio Steve Johnston, WD8DAS. "Many operators did not work in a technical field, but pursued Amateur Radio as a hobby for its own sake. This is a true success story about how a pastime can develop into an entirely new commercial and social phenomenon." Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/21/11153/?nc=1> for more

information on how you can help out with this study.

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Dance, and Provencal song, and sunburnt mirth <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/odetoanightingale.html>" Cook, K7RA, this week reports: Sunspot group 1028 emerged for only a few hours on Tuesday. This is another one of those phantom spots that briefly appears, only to vanish, teasing us with hints of an increase in activity that never seems to come. Along with the quiet Sun, we are still seeing extremely quiet geomagnetic indices, a nice upside to the lack of solar activity. Solar flux until the end of this month is expected to be around 72. The average solar flux for this week was 70.6, up 0.7 points from 69.9 the week before. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, October 23. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' Ode to a Nightingale <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/odetoanightingale.html>.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/> This week, look for an NCCC Sprint on October 23. The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (SSB), the CW and Digital runnings of the 10-10 International Fall Contest and the 50 MHz Fall Sprint are October 24-25. The SKCC Sprint is October 28. Next week, look for more runnings of the NCCC Sprint on October 30 and November 5. The High Speed Club CW Contest is November 1 and the ARS Spartan Sprint is November 3. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> + AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: SUMBANDILASAT NOW OSCAR 67

The South African Amateur Radio satellite SumbandilaSat <http://www.arrl.org/?artid=9183> has been officially designated SumbandilaSat-OSCAR 67, or simply OSCAR 67. Last weekend, the satellite was successfully activated and tested with a number of contacts made through its transponder, but it is not yet open for routine use. The satellite was launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome <http://www.russianspaceweb.com/baikonur.html> in Kazakhstan on September 17. The main payload is a multi-spectral imager, but the satellite also carries an Amateur Radio component consisting of a 2 meter/70 cm FM repeater. After SumbandilaSat is fully commissioned, the repeater will be activated with an uplink at 145.880 MHz and a downlink at 435.350 MHz; there will also be a voice beacon at 435.300 MHz. The transponder mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink

frequency. SumbandilaSat was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and was built at SunSpace <http://www.sunspace.co.za/> in cooperation with the Stellenbosch University <http://www.sun.ac.za/>. In addition to the SA-AMSAT amateur module, the satellite carries Stellenbosch University' s radiation experiment and software defined radio (SDR) project, an experiment from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a VLF radio module from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, October 25, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, November 6, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

473. IARU Announces ï¿½GlobalSET 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-27 19:44:07 UTC
From: helmsman@wowway.com
Message-ID: <7mfee5to0plp1uldpopfieq2ht1vp3dvi3@4ax.com>
Source record: 1783

IARU Announces ï¿½GlobalSET 2009ï¿½

On Saturday November 14, 2009, from 1800 to 2200 UTC, the
International Amateur Radio Union will activate ï¿½GlobalSET 2009ï¿½, a
Global Simulated Emergency Test that encourages Hams to pass simulated
emergency traffic using standard National Traffic System format.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada, a member society of IARU Region 2,
encourages all Canadian Radio Amateurs having an interest in emergency
communications to participate.

Rules and a list of participating stations may be found at
http://www.iaru-r1.org. Search under the heading, ï¿½Emergency
Communicationsï¿½, working group.

This is great opportunity for RAC members to observe and practice
important traffic passing skills that are so important to the
fundamentals of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

Those Amateurs planning to participate are requested to register with
the RAC Vice President for Field Services as soon as possible by
emailing vo1dtm@hotmail.com .

Doug Mercer VO1DTM (RAC CEC)

Vice President Field Services

Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.
--

* * * *

Vernon Erle Ikeda - VE2MBS/VE2QQ
Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec
RAC E-News/Web News Bulletin Editor
<racnews@rac.ca>

474. Re: What's your station?

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-29 16:16:25 UTC
From: "R.Scott" <w7psk@yahoo.com>
Message-ID: <3b62ae81-122b-4a0f-829b-31cc7eaf93c5@w37g2000prg.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1784

I currently have at home an HF-6V for Low and WARC and 6 meter Bands.
On a 9ft Glenn Martin Roof tower on my 1 story house I have an A-4S. No
VHF/UHF antennas as of yet. My rig is an ICOM 746pro, powered by a
Astron PS-35. I also rig control with my homebuild computer. For digi
modes I have a SIGNALINK USB. Software I use DXKeeper for Logging etc.
MIXW with MIX2DXLabs software for digi modes (the MIX2DX translates
straight to DXKEEPER and logs the QSO when I save it to Mixw's log. On
occasion I use DM780 just to use the superbrowser.

In the truck just a Yeasu FT-1500. Not much repeater activity around
here so it mostly stays quiet.

In my 5th wheel I take the 746pro and use the Icom PS25 power supply I
keep in the trailer. Antenna is either a Pro-Am whip on a ladder mount
or will be a cushcraft 4BTV that I am figuring how to mount.

Not much else. Just having fun for 32 years and counting.

Scott W7PSK

475. The ARRL Letter for October 29, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-29 21:58:33 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091029215527.9F728B35E92@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1785
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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October 29, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
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==> + OPERATING: CHANGES FOR THE 2009 NOVEMBER SWEEPSTAKES

Next month, amateurs throughout the US and Canada will take part in the
longest-running domestic contest, the 76th ARRL November Sweepstakes.
Since 1930, this tradition in Amateur Radio has brought out all kinds
of amateurs -- from seasoned contest veterans to neophytes, from
long-time traffic handlers to operators new to HF. The CW running of
Sweepstakes takes place next weekend, November 7-9, while the SSB
weekend is November 21-23. Each event runs from 2100 UTC Saturday until
0300 UTC Monday. All entrants may operate 24 out of the 30 hours. Click
here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/28/11166/?nc=1> for more
information, including changes to the log submission deadline.

==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: FCC ISSUES FIRST WAIVER FOR GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED
DISASTER DRILL
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On October 27, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) granted the first waiver that allows amateurs who participate in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness and disaster drill to communicate on behalf of their employers during the drill. The waiver request was made on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. That state conducted a full-scale exercise on Wednesday, October 28, 2009 from 8 AM-5 PM (EDT) to test their emergency response to the possible release of chemical agents at Blue Grass Army Depot, located near Richmond, Kentucky. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/28/11165/?nc=1> for more information.

==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HAMS CALLED TO ASSIST DURING WILDFIRES

Almost 20 years to the day since the Loma Prieta Earthquake shook California's Bay Area, a wildfire was burning through Santa Cruz County (approximately 75 miles south of San Francisco) just miles from the epicenter of the quake that caused part of the Bay Bridge to collapse. Just as Amateur Radio operators responded to calls for assistance for the earthquake, 20 years later on October 25, they responded when needed for a 485 acre wildfire. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/29/11168/?nc=1> for more information.

==> + THE DOCTOR IS IN: ANTENNAS FOR DOMESTIC CONTESTS

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

Just the other day, the Doctor and I got to talking about ARRL Sweepstakes <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html>. I showed him my crystal mug and whisk broom from last year's Sweepstakes running (the W1AW team did quite well), and he showed me what kind of antennas I should look into for domestic contests. Being more of a DX RTTY contester, I really don't know much about the domestic side of things. I dabbled in the February NAQP RTTY Contest <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php> last year from K1TTT <http://www.k1ttt.net> -- and will do so again in 2010 -- so I made sure to listen attentively. Here is what the good Doctor had to say:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DoctorARRL_Letter102909Figure1.pdf>
Each contest brings its own special requirements to the antenna designer. While many popular contests focus on communications outside North America and require the ability to send signals to all points of the compass, Sweepstakes is different, with a need to cover just the US and Canada. That means generally shorter range contacts and contacts in a limited range of directions, depending on station location.

In addition, points are gathered based on individual contacts multiplied by ARRL Sections. Thus, it is desirable to have the capability to reach all 80 sections on at least one band that will have propagation available. ARRL Contest Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, notes that many a contest superstation's secret weapon for Sweepstakes is a

40 meter dipole up between 25-30 feet. He says 40 meters is the Sweepstakes "money band" -- you can get close-in contacts during daylight and rake in the distant Sections when the band goes long in the evening hours. He said he had never put in a serious effort at Sweepstakes without a low dipole for 40, no matter how much aluminum he had up in the air.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DoctorARRL_Letter102909Figure2.pdf>
Another great solution is a multiband Yagi that can be pointed towards the areas with the best propagation. If possible, have it relatively low -- perhaps at a half-wave length above ground -- to be able to cover the close-in stations, as well as those at the continent's far edge. Obviously, from the Central US or Canada, distances tend to be shorter than they are from the coasts with stations near the edges better able to make use of higher antennas. If you have the ability to try different heights, by all means try lowering your antenna from the optimum height for transcontinental contacts and see what works best for you.

If you're like me and don't have rotatable HF arrays available, all is not lost. First you need to figure out what azimuths you need to cover and then try to match those to fit your location. From my Connecticut location, I would want to cover from the direction toward old friend Don, WT1I, in Ocala, Florida (bearing 214Â°) up to Mark, KL7TQ, my old Army buddy in Eagle River, Alaska (322Â°).

There are many ways to compute the bearing to a station. The easy way out is to just use www.qrz.com <http://www.qrz.com/>. If your listing includes your latitude and longitude, bringing up another station and "looking at the details" will provide you with the bearing to their station. If you don't know anyone at the edges of the desired coverage area, just put a city name in the "Name Search" function and pick one that comes up. It doesn't get much easier -- or, if you must, you can use spherical trigonometry.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/DoctorARRL_Letter102909Figure3A.pdf>
Using my station as an example, the range of bearings I want to cover requires a beamwidth of 322Â° minus 214Â°, or 108Â°. A half-wave dipole at a height of half a wave length has a -3 dB beamwidth of 87Â° (see Figure 1). At a width of 108Â° it's only down to -4.6 dB from the peak. That's pretty close, and might be good if I had a lot of distant stations behind me, as in Central US or Canada, but I don't.

If I were to put a wire reflector, 5 percent longer than the original dipole, 6 feet behind it (for 20 meters), I would have an easy to deploy 2-element Yagi with the pattern shown in Figure 2. To make it resonate in mid band, I need to trim about 4 inches from each end of the now driven element and I'm good to go. Note what I have -- a bit more gain in front, a lot less in the back, but still plenty of signal toward northern New England. My signal at the edges of my coverage area is now stronger than the dipole's -3 dB points.

If I don't have many stations to my rear, an additional 1 dB of forward gain can be achieved at the expense of rearward signals (see Figure 3) and a higher SWR by shortening the reflector a few inches -- about 2.5 percent over the driven element should do the trick. This may be worthwhile if you are right at a corner of the country. For more bands, just use parallel elements and multiple reflectors. See the article <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0111035.pdf> by Marcus Hansen, VE7CA, to get the idea. Azimuth plots represented in Figures 1, 2 and 3 represent the output from the EZNEC antenna modeling software <http://www.eznec.com/> by Roy Lewallen, W7EL.

Thanks Doctor! Do you have a question or a problem? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org> or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST <http://www.arrl.org/qst>, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> + DID YOU KNOW?: ARRL SWEEPSTAKES

The ARRL November Sweepstakes was once called "The January Contest." First held in 1930, the first running of what we know of today as ARRL Sweepstakes, last two weeks. J. F. Feely, W1ADW, of Danbury, Connecticut, came in first place with 153 contacts in 43 Sections, giving him a score of 13,158 points. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/29/11170/?nc=1> for more information on this event, now in its 76th running.

==> + PRODUCT REVIEW: A "SNEAK PEEK" AT DECEMBER QST

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX6f6SktdLA> ARRL Test Engineer Bob Allison, WB1GCM, offers ARRL Letter readers a "sneak peek <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IX6f6SktdLA>" at the two items featured in the Product Review column of the December 2009 issue of QST. Get up close and personal with the ICOM IC-80AD dual band handheld transceiver, reviewed by QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Ten-Tec 715 RF speech processor, reviewed by Allison. Check it out!

==> SOLAR UPDATE

In for Tad "Tall chestnuts keep away the Sun and moon <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/songoftheindianmaid.html>" Cook, K7RA, Steve Nichols, G0KYA, of Wymondham in Norfolk, England, gave us this report: What a week for sunspots! This was a huge surprise -- and a wonderful event for the CQ World Wide SSB DX Contest last weekend, with many stations reporting excellent HF DX, even on 10 and 15 meters. Many Southern California hams, including K6GEP, were surprised to work Romanian station YO4ATW on 10 meters in the contest. It helped that YO4ATW was operating with a tri-band beam atop a 10-story building! Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, October 30. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad

Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' Song of the Indian Maid <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/songoftheindianmaid.html>.

==> + ORGANIZATIONAL: ARRL PRESIDENT JOEL HARRISON, W5ZN, NOT TO SEEK REELECTION

After serving two terms as ARRL President, Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has decided not to seek reelection when his current term expires January 16, 2010. Harrison began his ARRL career as a volunteer ARRL elected official in 1983 when he became the Section Manager in the League's Arkansas Section. Subsequently, he has served as Delta Division Director and Vice President. In 2000, he was elected First Vice President; he was elected President in 2006.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/> This week, look for runnings of the NCCC Sprint on October 30 and November 5. The High Speed Club CW Contest is November 1 and the ARS Spartan Sprint is November 3. Next week, the CW portion of the ARRL Sweepstakes <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html> is November 7-9 and the ARRL EME Competition <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/eme.html> is November 7-8. There is another running of an NCCC Sprint on November 6. The Ukrainian DX Contest is November 7-8. The North America Collegiate ARC Championship (CW) is November 7-9. The SKCC Weekend Sprint is November 8. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> DO YOU KNOW?: A TRIVIA QUESTION FOR OUR READERS

The ARRL Sweepstakes has a long and proud history. At one point, The Philippines was a multiplier in the Sweepstakes, as was Cuba (as part of the West Indies Section). In what year did The Philippines cease to be a multiplier in Sweepstakes? When did the West Indies Section cease to be a multiplier? If you know the answer to both these questions, send one e-mail <k1sfa@arrl.org> with both answers (incomplete entries will be discarded) to ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA. Each entry that has both answers correct will be put into a hat and one winner will be selected to win their choice of a desktop <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1318> or pocket <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=1288> edition of the 2009/2010 ARRL Repeater Directory. Good luck!

==> SILENT KEYS

Former Hudson Division Director Paul Vydareny, WB2VUK (SK): Paul Vydareny, WB2VUK, of Tarrytown, New York, passed away Thursday, October

22, from a brain aneurism. He was 65. An ARRL Life Member and member of the ARRL's A-1 Operator Club <http://www.arrl.org/awards/a1-op/>, Vydareny served as Director of the ARRL's Hudson Division from January-September 1996. Vydareny had a long record of volunteer service with the ARRL: Prior to becoming Director, he served as Section Manager of the Eastern New York Section from 1980-1996 and as Vice Director from 1987-1996 (Vice Directors were once allowed to serve simultaneously as Section Managers). Vydareny -- who was elevated from Vice Director to Director when then-Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML (ex-WA2DHF), was elected ARRL First Vice President -- resigned as Director in 1996, citing job and church obligations as preventing him from doing what he considered "a proper job of fulfilling his duties as Director."

Former San Diego Section Manager Paul Thompson, N6PC (SK):Paul Thompson, N6PC (ex-W6SRS), of San Diego, California, passed away Wednesday, October 21. He was 69. According to his cousin Michelle Harvey, Thompson was taking antennas off his roof on Monday, October 19, when he slipped and fell, sustaining fatal injuries. Thompson, a longtime QCWA <http://www.qcwa.org/> member, served as Section Manager of the ARRL San Diego Section from January 1971-October 1973.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, November 22, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 4, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

==> FEEDBACK

In last week's ARRL Letter <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/index.html?issue=2009-10-22>, we reported that Randy Hargenrader, K4QO (SK), accompanied his friends and fellow hams Ed Steeble, K3IXD/C6AXD (SK), Dallas Carter, W3PP (SK), and Pete Radding, W2GJ/C6APR (SK), and Bob Biss, W8ZA, to the Bahamas for the 2008 CQWW SSB Contest. In fact, Hargenrader was not on that trip. We apologize for the error.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

476. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1681 - October 30 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-10-30 06:55:22 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091029215142.0339eca8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1786
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1681 - October 30 2009

Note: This weeks newscast runs 35 minutes and 16 seconds and contains three ID breaks. Newscast begins right now.

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1681 with a release date of Friday, October 30th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Sweden says no to radio pollution from B-P-L, a new South African ham satellite gets is Oscar designation, three hams file a petition to make all emergency communications legal and the biggest yearly ham radio public service event takes place in New York City a few hours after this weeks newscast goes to air. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1681 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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THE BPL WAR: A BIG WIN IN SWEDEN

We begin this week with news that one European nation is saying no to interference caused by Broadband over Powerline Internet access. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the studio with more:

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Telecommunications regulators in Sweden have withdrawn certain Broadband over Powerline or Powerline Transmission Internet access equipment from the public marketplace. A recent C-E-P-T Electronic Communications Committee report notes that the Swedish regulator ordered the sale of such gear to cease because some BPL gear pollutes the radio spectrum.

Mention of the Swedish action in withdrawing the equipment appears in the Report from the Working Group Spectrum Engineering Bordeaux, 07 11 September 2009. It gives the reasons behind the decision to impose these latest anti RF interference standards on BPL service in that nation.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the newsroom in Los Angeles.

--

You can read the report in its entirety at
http://www.ero.dk/37D6714E-27DF-42D7-AF4B-D790B0083183?frames=no&
(Southgate)

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: MORE ON THE C6APR TRAGEDY

The contesting world is still in shock at the tragic news that four members of the C6APR team perished when their light aircraft crashed soon after take-off in South Carolina the pre dawn hours of Wednesday, October 21st.

Killed when the twin engine Piper Aztec PA-23 plummeted to the ground shortly after takeoff from Summerville Airport in South Carolina were the pilot Peter Radding W2GJ, along with passengers Ed Steeble, K3IXD, Randy Hargenrader K4QO and Dallas Carter W3PP.

According to news reports, Radding had been flying for over 40 years and Hargenrader was also a licensed pilot. All four were on their way Crooked Island in the Bahamas by way of Ft. Pearce, Florida, to operate the CQ World Wide DX Contest when the accident occurred. Crooked Island is a location used on seven previous occasions by the team since 2006.

The National Transportation Safety Board in Washington D.C., is the lead investigating agency. NTSB investigator Shawn Etcher said the plane banked to the left after takeoff. He said that judging by marks found on trees near the wreckage, it appears the plane climbed to an altitude of at least 90 feet before crashing. The crash scene was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

Sixty-six year old Stella Bazzle lives about a half-mile from the crash site. She is quoted as saying that the plane's engines didn't sound right as it passed near her house. She described it as a roaring and grinding sound. Bazzle, then heard what sounded like two explosions, with the first one bigger than the second.

The wreckage was to have been transported to Atlanta, Georgia, for closer examination. Typically, it takes the N-T-S-B between 12 and 18 months to determine the cause of a crash, but a preliminary report is expected out shortly. (Summerville Journal, Charleston Press, others)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SUMBANDILASAT DESIGNATED AS SO-67

The recently launched South African SumbandilaSat has now been designated as SO-67. AMSAT's OSCAR Number Coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO, made the designation shortly after receiving an e-mail from the secretary South Africa AMSAT requesting that an OSCAR number be allocated to the new ham radio bird. .

As previously reported, the amateur radio payload on SumbandilaSat was developed by South Africa AMSAT and incorporated by the University of Stellenbosch into the main payload. The ham radio payload was

officially coordinated through the IARU Satellite Frequency Coordination Panel with an uplink of 145.880 MHz and a downlink of 435.350 MHz.

Late word is that the F-M transponder on SumbandilaSat will be activated for the first time over North America on Saturday October 24 at 19:52 UTC. In this mode SumbandilaSat will uplink on 145.875 MHz and downlink on 435.345 MHz. A CTCSS tone of 233.6 Hz is needed to access this F-M repeater in the sky. (ANS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT REVEALS ITS NEXT GEN CUBESAT

AMSAT will work with a university student engineering team to develop the NextGen Cubesat. Program Manager, Alex Harvilchuck, N3NP, introduced this new program at the recent AMSAT Symposium. That's where he also revealed the program goals. These include an initial analysis of ARISSat-1, analysis of the lessons learned from the renamed SuitSat 2 project and other prior spacecraft. This, to create a building block architecture for future satellites. N3NP says that NextGen will feature an open, modular, evolutionary, and documented design based on this analysis. More on this new bird is at the AMSAT website at www.amsat.org. (ANS)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N5IUF repeater serving Dallas, Texas.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: GROUP PROPOSES REVISING 97:111 TO PERMIT UNRESTRICTED HAM RADIO EMCOMM

Meantime, a small group of hams has petitioned the FCC to add a new section to Part 97:111 of the Amateur Service rules. The Amateur Radio Policy Committee has filed a request to the regulatory agency to add a sub-part6 t that rule to permit any ham to participate in emergency training drills, whether or not he or she is in the employ of an entity taking pat in the exercise.

The wording that the group is proposing would permit transmissions necessary for disaster relief or emergency response, including training exercises, planning, drills or tests without regard to whether the amateur operator has related employment. This, where the transmissions are for the exclusive use of amateur radio operators for non-commercial purposes.

The request is signed by three prominent radio amateurs. They are Tom Blackwell, N5GAR, of Dallas, Texas; David Coursey, N5FDL, from Tracy, California, and ham radio educator Gordon West, WB6NOA, of Costa Mesa, California. They say that their petition is presented in what they term as Section 97 point 1 of the FCC rules. 97 point 1 defines FCC licensed amateur operators as part of a voluntary non-commercial communications service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

The petition was accepted by the FCC on October 15th, but so far it has not been assigned a rule making number nor has it been released for public comment. (QRZ.com, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: NEW ADVANCES IN EMCOMM FEATURED ON THE BBC

Recent developments in emergency broadband communications is the topic of a BBC interview with Mike Outmesguine KG6NHH. Outmesguine is the president and founder of TransStellar, Inc., a successful technology services company with an emphasis on wireless mobility and energy information systems.

The BBC news item says that KG6NHH has demonstrated an easy way to produce what it calls a "Network Relief Kit." This is described as an ultra portable method of connecting to the internet from almost any location in the world.

The system works by contacting one of three satellites orbiting the earth to get an internet connection. The receiver can then be plugged in, using ethernet cables, to a standard router, VoIP phone or similar devices.

The BBC says that In 2003-2004 the equipment cost some $40,000 . but these days the whole kit, Now, thanks to advances in technology the entire kit can be carried in a back-pack with its cost down to around $3,000 including the solar panel. Connectivity is said to be fast enough to watch videos on YouTube.

You can read the full BBC report at http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8318156.stm The BBC Digital Planet radio interview with Mike Outmesguine, KG6NHH, is at http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p004l2hz (BBC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FEMA SELECTS NEXT GENERATION EAS TESTING LAB

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has selected a site for a lab to test new Emergency Alert System equipment. This as the next step to assure that the equipment fully complies with the new Common Alerting Protocol or CAP system that is still being developed.

FEMA has awarded Eastern Kentucky University a contract to test the next generation of EAS equipment to make sure it conforms with the CAP

protocol developed by the Integrated Public Alert and Warning or IPAWS System. Making equipment available that can receive a Common Alerting Protocol message is the first of several objectives that must be accomplished before FEMA adopts the system. (FEMA)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: DELTA ARC TO SUPPORT MEMPHIS ST. JUDE MARATHON

The Memphis based Delta Amateur Radio Club will be providing communications support to the upcoming St. Jude Marathon. This December 5th event is sponsored by St. Jude children's' hospital. More information on the marathon is on-line at www.stjudemarathon.org. Information on the club is at www.deltaclub.org. (NF5B)

**

ENFORCEMENT: BANK OF AMERICA VS. THE FCC

It's the FCC versus one of the nations largest banking institutions in a dispute over a satellite earth station. Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, has the details:

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Even those at the very top can hear the word no from the FCC. Take the giant Bank of America which has been told that it has to apply for a new permit to operate an Earth station because it accidentally let its old license expire.

The story goes like this. On September 10, 2009, Bank of America filed a petition to request reinstatement of its earth station license for call sign E990192, which had expired this past July 20th. Bank of America states that the oversight was inadvertent and due to a new monitoring and maintenance contract. Bank of America further explained that the new contractor has put this earth station into its database to ensure timely renewal filings in the future.

But in its October 9th denial, the FCC said that under its rules a petition for reinstatement of an expired license will be considered only if the petition is filed within 30 days of the license expiration date. It said that Bank of America did not file its petition within this time frame, nor did it ask for a waiver of this rule. So based on this it has denied Bank of America's request for re-instatement of authority for earth station call sign E990192. It also said that if Bank of America seeks regular authority to operate this earth station, it must file an application for a new license for this station.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

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In rendering its decision the FCC did say that the bank can file for a Special Temporary Authority to operate the station that the agency

indicates that it will be granted. (FCC)

**

NEWSLINE FOLLOW-UP: AMAZON PAYS $150,000 TO SETTLE KINDLE SUIT

Amazon has agreed to pay $150,000 to settle a tort action filed by 17 year old Justin Gawronski. He's the Michigan teen who sued the online retailer after George Orwell's novels "1984" and "Animal Farm" along with his homework were deleted from his Kindle electronic book.

The Orwell novels had been added to the online retailer's site by a company that did not have the rights to sell them. In mid-July, with no notice to customers about the error, Amazon remotely deleted the e-books. Gawronski was adversely affected when the deletion also partially destroyed his homework.

The money, after going to the law firm representing the teen, will be donated to charity. Gawronski had already been compensated for the loss with a $30 gift certificate. (Published news reports)

**

RADIO RESEARCH: OLD LOGS NEEDED T STUDY THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Researchers at the University of Wisconsin and Miami University of Ohio are seeking copies of amateur station logs from 1913 through 1927. This, in hopes they may offer insights into the relationship between individuals' work and leisure activities, technology, and their social networks of he era.

Phil Kim is an Assistant Professor at the Wisconsin School of Business. He notes that diaries, letters, QSL cards and station logs can contain valuable insights into the link between an individual's occupation, hobbies and friends.

Kim notes that early in amateur radio history, thousands of ham radio enthusiasts were licensed by the government to comply with the Radio Act of 1912. At that time and due to newly enacted rules, that those early hams began to more carefully document the new communications era.

In an effort to uncover new information about approaches to work and leisure time and the development of social networks, Kim and other researchers are comparing early ham licensing records from the Department of Commerce with detailed information in amateur operators' station logs. If you happen to have an old ham station log from that period that you would like to see included in the study, please contact Steve Johnston, WD8DAS, via e-mail to johnson at wpr dot net. (WD8DAS, QCWA)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: THE COLLEGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ASSOCIATION

If you are in college or are preparing to attend, then the new College Amateur Radio Club Association may interest you. The web based organization is described as an attempt to create a community of college students, faculty, and alumni in order to unite the college clubs. According to Bryce Salmi, KB1LQC, the hope is promote amateur radio to college students through which collaborative innovations in technology can be made, and college clubs will retain a more stable membership. The groups home is located in cyberspace at http://www.collegearc.com (KB1LQC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: KB2GSD PERSONAL PAPERS GO TO HIS COLLEGE

The estate of the late Water Cronkite, KB2GSD, has made public. The retired CBS newsman has bequeathed his college alma mater what amounts to a treasure trove of papers and memorabilia chronicling his career.

Cronkite dropped out of the University of Texas at Austin in 1935 as a junior. Instead, he decided to pursue a career in the news business but the broadcasting legend never abandoned his Texas-based educational roots.

According to his last will and testament now on file at Manhattan Surrogate's Court, KB2GSD bequeathed his personal papers to the university. This is really a process that actually started before his death on July 17 but will now end with the release of materials he had held onto at his office and homes in Manhattan and on Martha's Vineyard.

After becoming a television anchor, Cronkite returned often to campus as a lecturer and lent his announcing skills to the university as the narrator of ads that are still used at athletic events and to promote Longhorn accomplishments. (Published reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: TAPR ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Tucson Amateur Packet Radio has elected Steve Bible, N7HPR, as it new President. Other leadership positions include Scott Cowling, WA2DFI, as Vice President; Tom Holmes, N8ZM, as Treasurer; and Stan Horzepa, WA1LOU, as Secretary. TAPR also recently elected three new members to their Board of Directors. They are Scott Cowling, WA2DFI; John Koster, W9DDD, and Mark Thompson, WB9QZB.

The election results were made public at the recent ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference in Chicago, Illinois. At the gathering the TAPR Board of Directors of selected named Dr David Toth, VE3GYQ, as President Emeritus of the group. Dr. Toth served as TAPR President from 2005 to 2009 and as a member of the Board from 1987 through 1993 and 2004 to the present. (TAPR)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: DL3OAP NEW CHAIR OF DARC EXECUTIVE BOARD

Some names in the news. First over to Germany where Dr. Walter Schlink, DL3OAP has been elected as Chairman of the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club's Executive Board. He succeeds Jochen Hindrichs, DL9KCX. Hindrichs had served as Chairman since May, 2001, but decided not to run for anther term.

Also elected to the Executive Board are Steffen Schï¿½ppe, DL7ATE, Dr. Jï¿½rgen Sturhahn, DL8LE, Martin Kï¿½hler, DL1DCT, and Mitch Wolfson, DJ0QN. Wolfson who is originally from Los Angels California held the call WA6GSN. He still holds a U.S. license and the call K7DX. He's also believed to be the first non German ever elected to this post in the DARC.

The meeting where the election took place was n the city of Bad Lippspringe and took place on October on 24th. (Southgate)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VE4HAY RE-ELECTED RAC MIDWEST DIRECTOR

And congratulations to Derek Hay, VE4HAY, of Winnipeg who has been re-elected as the Midwest Region Director of Radio Amateurs of Canada. Hey ran unopposed and was declared re-elected on September 16th. (RAC)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: COMMUNICATIONS IN A SHRIMP'S EYE

>From the technology page comes the story of the remarkable eyes of a marine crustacean could inspire the next generation of DVD, CD players and possibly telecommunications gear. This, according to a new study from the University of Bristol published in Nature Photonics. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the rest of this fascinating story of communications under the sea:

--

The mantis shrimps used in the study are found on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and have the most complex vision systems known to science. They can see in twelve colors while humans see in only three. Also, it can distinguish between different forms of polarized light.

Special light-sensitive cells in mantis shrimp eyes act as quarter wave plates which can rotate the plane of the polarization of a light wave as it travels through it. This capability makes it possible for mantis shrimps to convert linearly polarized light to circularly polarized light and vice versa.

Manmade quarter-wave plates perform this essential function in CD and DVD players and in circular polarizing filters for cameras. However, these artificial devices only tend to work well for one color of light while the natural mechanism in the mantis shrimp's eyes works almost perfectly across the whole visible spectrum from near-ultra violet to infra-red.

Dr. Nicholas Roberts is the lead author of the Nature Photonics paper. He says that the work of his team reveals for the first time the unique design and mechanism of the quarter-wave plate in the mantis shrimp's eye. He describes it as exceptional and out performing anything we humans have so far been able to create.

Exactly why the mantis shrimp needs such exquisite sensitivity to circularly polarized light isn't clear. However, polarization vision is used by animals for secret communication that avoids the attention of other animals, especially predators. It could also assist in the finding and catching of prey by improving the clarity of images underwater. If this mechanism in the mantis shrimp provides an evolutionary advantage, it could help scientists create better optical devices in the future using liquid crystals that have been chemically engineered to mimic the properties of the cells in the mantis shrimp's eye.

This would not be the first time humans have looked to the natural world for new ideas. In another bit of research the lobster's compound eye recently inspired the design of an X-ray detector for an astronomical telescope.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, looking at communications technology in the briny deep.

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This new research into the amazing vision capabilities of the mantis shrimp and how it might one day improve communications in the human world was conducted at the University of Bristol's School of Biological Sciences in collaboration with colleagues the University of Queensland in Australia. (Adapted from Science OnLine)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: MOBILE AND HANDHELD DTV STANDARD IS APPROVED

A fast-track effort by broadcasters, transmission vendors and consumer electronics manufacturers to create a technical standard for transmitting digital TV signals to cellular telephones and other mobile devices has come to fruition. This, with the Advanced Television

Systems Committee announcing that it has approved a ATSC Mobile Digital television Standard.

The Advanced Television Systems Committee says that the mobile standard formally known as A/153 and also received overwhelming support in balloting by its full membership tallied at midnight on October 15th. The formal approval of the standard, which has been circulating in preliminary form since last November, should pave the way for mobile DTV receivers to hit retail shelves next year.

Development of the standard officially began in May 2007, when the Advanced Television Systems Committee released a request for proposals for a standard for the mobile and hand held telecasting system. It has progressed at record setting pace since then. (RW)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: ON-STAR USES RADIO TO END PURSUIT

For the first time since it was created, the On-Star highway safety system pioneered by General Motors has been used to bring an end to a high speed pursuit. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the details:

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It all took place about two weeks ago when the victim identified as Jose Ruiz, of Lindsay, California, was sitting in his Tahoe in a lighted parking lot about 3 a.m.. This, while his cousin was talking on a cell phone in the passenger seat. Out of the corner of his eye, Ruiz says that he saw a man walking toward him. The man then allegedly pointed a sawed-off shotgun at Ruiz and ordered both men to get out of the Tahoe and empty their pockets. Ruiz's cousin at first refused, but Ruiz told him to obey, knowing that OnStar could find the stolen truck with the built-in global positioning system.

The cousin relented and the man sped off in the truck. Ruiz then ran toward a nearby pay telephone to call police. As luck would have it he spotted a sheriff's deputy on her break who in turn notified the Visalia police. Officers quickly contacted OnStar and got Ruiz's permission to find the vehicle.

Police spotted it a few miles away. As officers made a U-turn to pursue it, the Tahoe sped off at a high speed. At about the same time, police dispatchers told the pursuing officers that OnStar was about to disable the stolen vehicle by radio command. It did, the Tahoe rolled to a halt, and the robber was quickly captured without any injuries except maybe to the alleged robbers pride.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

--

The bottom line. Technology may soon make it very unattractive to try to steal a car if the thief knows that there is a 1 in 2 chance that he will be caught by radio remote control. (Future Technology)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: BOSE INTRODUCES WIRELESS STREAMING AUDIO SPEAKER

Audio equipment maker Bose has introduced its new SoundLink wireless music system. This is a one-piece portable speaker system that allows users to play streaming audio from their computer wirelessly in and around the home.

The new SoundLink system was designed as a simple solution for people who listen to sound stored on their computer, but do not necessarily want to be at their computer to hear it. No software or Wi-Fi connection is required. Just plug the included USB key into the computer, select the sound from any Internet source and the audio will stream to the SoundLink system via a long-range wireless link that works through most walls and floors.

The included infrared remote control operates the power and volume. It c an also send transport control commands to most applications, allowing users to skip tracks or play/pause from a distance. More information about this novel product is on-line at www.Bose.com (New Product News)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FLO TV TO BE AVAILABLE BY CHRISTMAS

A new form of television will soon be at arms reach. Jim Davis, W2JKD, has the details:

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Coming in time for Christmas is a wireless handheld TV that will have its own dedicated network. The new FLO TV Personal Television, or PTV, is a live mobile TV service from Qualcomm that is used for AT&T Mobile Television and Verizon's V-Cast.

The PTV will sell for $250, and subscriptions begin at $9 a month. FLO TV isn't saying yet what content it has lined up, but the AT&T and V-Cast products have 15 channels apiece, including CBS Mobile, CNBC, Comedy Central, ESPN Mobile, Fox News Channel, MSNBC, MTV and Nickelodeon.

Plans call for DVR functionality down the road. The big question is just how many people will be willing to pay for a service that supplies programs to a miniscule 2 or 3 inch screen.

I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD

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The answer as to weather we will some day see a world of humans walking aimlessly down a street with their eyes glued to a tiny screen will be interesting to watch out for. And if it does catch on, then we do mean to watch out! (TV Tech)

**

WORLDBEAT: RADIO SWEDEN TO STOP QSL'ING LISTENER REPORTS

Radio Sweden says that it is discontinuing mailing QSL cards to listeners in response to reception reports. Also, the station will be discontinuing mass mailouts of its program schedules.

According to Media Network, with the start of the new transmission period on October 25th, Radio Sweden will only be publishing its broadcast schedule on the World-Wide-Web. Radio Sweden says that this is a logical consequence of the increasing importance of the Internet as a broadcast platform and because it has stopped broadcasting its own programs in the Swedish language.

The only exception is when the station receives a specific request for a printed version of its schedules Listeners can contact Swedish Radio's Listener Service department with these requests. (Media Network)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ARECIBO OBSERVATORY ON NOVEMBER 1st

And while this is kind of short notice, word that the second activation of station KP4AQ located at the Arecibo Observatory Radio Club will take place on Sunday November 1st. This, to commemorate 46 years of operations of still the single largest radio telescope antenna in the world. The operation will also commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Arecibo Message, which was sent on November 16, 1974,in binary code and transmitted to the globular star cluster M13. Its purpose was for if it to be received by intelligent life and to let them know about our existence. The special event will run from 1300 to 2000 UTC on 20 meters SSB. More information about the Arecibo Message is in cyberspace at at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arecibo_message (E-mail)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: NORTH AMERICAN SUMMITS ON THE AIR

This North American Summits on the Air or SOTA activation day is Saturday, November 14th. To celebrate, the four North American Summits on the Air associations are planning a multi-hilltop activation spanning the North American continent. Portable, mountain top stations will be operating from the VE2, W1, W2, and W6 call areas. The operators will be using the extensive spotting and alerting system devised by the SOTA organization. To join in the fun, please visit the www.sota.org.uk to get the latest details. (KI6J)

**

BREAK 3

Running a bit long this week because there's so much news to report, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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DX

In DX, KL7JR reports that plans are underway for the activation of Jacquot Island before and during ARRL's December 11th to the 13th Ten Meter Contest. Listen out for VY1RST to concentrate on 10 meters for the contest and 14.260 for non-contest activities. QSL via KL7JR at his callbook address.

And ZS6TAF, who works in Maputo Mozambique from time to time will be operate mobile using the callsign C91BA. He has a Yaesu 857D and Watson mobile antenna for 80 through 6 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

A team of operators will be on the air from Arturo Prat-Greenwich Island in the South Shetland archipelago between January 10th to the 24th of 2010. Their callsign will be XR9JA. Activity will be on 160-6 meters using CW, SSB,PSK31 and the AO-51 ham radio satellite. QSL via CE5JA.

CT1DRB, is active as T6AG from Afghanistan for the next 6 months. His operation will be CW only.. QSL via EA3GHZ direct.

Lastly, N1EMC and N1IW and will be active as T30KI and T30IW, respectively, from Western Kiribati. This, between November 10th and the 16th. Activity will be on H-F plus 6 meters as conditions permit using SSB and CW. QSL via N1EMC.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: PUBLIC SERVICE - HAM RADIO - AND THE ING NYC MARATHON

And finally, its once again time for the biggest annual ham radio public service event found anywhere in the world. The New York City Marathon began in 1970 with 127 runners, a budget of $1,000 and a small group of ARES operators who tried to provide communications. Today, the I-N-G sponsored race has grown to the status of World Class Marathon with over 38,000 runners, two million spectators and a corps of over 400 ham radio volunteers holding it all together.

This years New York City Marathon takes place on Sunday, November 1st. In planning for marathon day there is a coordinated effort between the

New York Road Runners and several New York City agencies. While each agency has its own dedicated communications system, no two have the ability to talk to one another. Enter ham radio.

Since 1976, Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, has been the volunteer Director of Communications for the New York City Marathon. He says that the hams are the only ones who can communicate with everyone involved:

--

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML: And the reason we can communicate with everyone involved is not because of the iron, its not because of the radios -- its because of our skills. As technology has advanced and we have brought in the use of cellphones and the use of the Nextel system and trunked radio, time and again, marathon organizers from the original Fred Lebow through his successor Alan Steinfeld, W2TN, to todays New York City Marathon Director Mary Wittenberg all say the same thing: '-you can by any amount of radios with any amount of money, but all the money in the world won't buy the skills the ham radio community has.' "

--

Mendelsohn's words have long been echoed by Paul Ortolano, who is the events director for the New York Road Runners. In a 2007 interview, Ortolano told the Hofstra Chronicle newspaper that amateur radio operators are the key source of communications for the marathon. He said that the marathon cannot happen each year without the dedication of the ham radio community. Ortolano called them the eyes and ears of the event and Mendelsohn is quick to agree:

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Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML: "The New York Road Runners cannot put staff out there nor can the New York Police put the quantity of staff that we use with over 400 ham radio operators providing eyes -- walking quarter mile segments of the course, patrolling for fallen runners. We have the the hardware. We have the expertise and the New York City Marathon has long said very, very good things about our operation."

--

In addition to his volunteer work with the NYC Marathon, Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, is a senior engineer at the ABC Television Network in New York. He is the recipient of a Technical Emmy for his part in ABC's special turn of the century telecast titled "2000: Millennium Around the World." And to top it off in 1990 he was named Hamvention Radio Amateur of the Year for his development of the ham radio communications network that keeps the New York City Marathon on track. He became involved with the marathon when its founder, the late Fred Lebow came to a Tri-State Repeater Council meeting looking for an amateur radio expert. Steve said that he didn't exactly volunteer. Rather he was volunteered by the other hams at the repeater coordinators gathering:

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Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML: "In point of fact, I listened to the late Fred Lebow talk about shutting down the city, running a huge number of people -- I think the original number was about 1300 -- through the streets of the city -- and I turned to the then president of TSARC and I said that this man is out of his mind. I then excused myself to go to the mens room. When I came back the first thing that struck me was listening to Fred talk about how excited he was to work with us and the fact that amateur radio was going to provide a very, very important safety point for the New York City Marathon. I casually sat down, turned to the president and said '-who would volunteer for something like this?' He smiled and said '-the one that was out of the room.' And to this day I have never volunteered."

--

Since then, W2ML has been the New York Marathon Director of Communications. Under his aegis, the ham radio communications network for the event has grown in size to become the largest all volunteer ham radio communications group found anywhere: --

Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML: "We are very fortunate to have a lot of people who really enjoy doing public service. This year we will have over 400 hams -- I think we are up to 406 or 407 at this with the two volunteers we got tonight. They come in from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio and we even have a gentleman who comes in from Denver. K2AD comes in from the Denver Marathon to provide a hand.

"Most of us, while we all celebrate ham radio and what it can do for the running public. In fact we have become a very close knit family to the point where there is a group from Columbus, Ohio, that actually rents an RV as part of a three-day weekend, and they drive to New York. They then go into Manhattan and enjoy the city on Friday and Saturday and Sunday morning they do the marathon. Then they drive back to Ohio and that's their idea of a vacation."

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W2ML is responsible for more than just recruiting ham radio operators. He has to know how to strategically place them in vital positions along the course. Some of these include the start and finish lines, the water trucks, the medical stations, and of coarse the checkpoints throughout the race path.

This year Mendelsohn expects to have volunteer operators from nine different states. Many of these are the same volunteer ham radio operators that placed their own lives on the line to assist following the attack of the World Trade Center in 2001. That act of terrorism also destroyed the ability for police, fire and rescue workers to communicate in lower Manhattan. Jumping in immediately as communications first responders were the regions ham radio operators. They volunteered their time and radio gear as substitute communications

for police, fire and other emergency agencies responding to the disaster area. The hams also served at numerous shelters and at temporary rescue stations as the only available communications. In the process earned the respect ad admiration of city, state and federal level government officials.

Since then many have been back to offering communications for the annual race through the streets of the Big Apple, but because of the lessons that they have learned over the years in service to the New York City Marathon, these hams are prepared to face just about any emergency that might come their way. (ARNewsline(tm))

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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477. The ARRL Letter for November 5, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-05 22:16:18 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091105211648.AD6E0328215@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1787
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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November 5, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
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+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==>
+ PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM RADIO OPERATORS ASSIST IN CATALINA ISLAND RESCUE

Around 9:45 on the night of October 23, while attending an overnight
event at the Boy Scouts' Camp Emerald Bay on Santa Catalina Island,
Karl Tso, KI6PCW, and his wife, Deborah Ava, KJ6CRZ, of Topanga,
California, decided to climb a hill to check out the view -- and to see
if they could get into the repeater on the island with their handheld
transceivers. As they climbed the hill, the two radio amateurs heard a
sound; Tso turned his high-powered flashlight on the source, only to
discover a man who had fallen 48 feet to the rocks below, bleeding and
severely injured. Read here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/31/11174/?nc=1>.

==> + ARRL RECOGNIZES: GEORGE E. SMITH, AA2EJ, WINS NOBEL PRIZE

Around 5:30 on the morning of October 6, George E. Smith, AA2EJ, of
Barnegat, New Jersey, got a phone call that changed his life: He had
just found out he had won the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2009
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<http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/2009/index.html>
"for the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit -- the CCD
sensor
<http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2009/10/ccd-inventors-awarded-nobel-prize-40-
years-on/>."
Smith will share the prize money with two other recipients: Charles K.
Kao, of Standard Telecommunication Laboratories in the United Kingdom
and Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Willard S. Boyle, of Bell
Laboratories. Each recipient will receive a diploma
<http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/diplomas/>, a medal
<http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medals/> and a document confirming
their share of SEK 10 million
<http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/amounts.html> (about $1.4 million);
Kao will receive 50 percent, while Smith and Boyle will each receive 25
percent of the monetary award.

Kao was recognized by the prize committee for his "groundbreaking
achievements concerning the transmission of light in fibers for optical
communication." His discoveries paved the way for optical fiber
technology, used for almost all telephony and data communication today.
Boyle and Smith invented a digital image sensor -- the CCD -- that has
become an electronic eye in almost all areas of photography.

"My wife Janet, AA2EI, and I sailed around the world for 17 years,"
Smith told the ARRL. "While we were on our boat, we used Amateur Radio,
especially in the South Pacific. Janet was the principal radio
operator. With our radio, we could keep track of other boats in the
area. Over in the Southwest Pacific, there are shore stations there
that provide weather forecasts every day on the ham radio. We would
listen for these, as it was such a tremendous help for us as sailors."

The CCD -- invented in about an hour over lunch when Smith and Boyle
worked at New Jersey's Bell Labs -- was, according to Wired Magazine
<http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2009/10/ccd-inventors-awarded-nobel-prize-40-
years-on/>,
the first practical way to let a light-sensitive silicon chip store an
image and then digitize it. In short, it is the basis of today's
digital camera. According to Wired, the "most amazing thing about the
invention" is that Boyle and Smith came up with the design so quickly.
With Bell Labs threatening to take the funds from their department and
transfer the money to other research, Boyle had to come up with a
competing semiconductor design. He got together with Smith, and within
an hour, they came up with the idea and sketched it all out on a
blackboard.

"One morning in October, 1969," Boyle wrote on his Web site
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/cstmweb/3884295553/>, "I was challenged
to create a new kind of computer memory. That afternoon, I got together
with George Smith and brainstormed for an hour or so on a new kind of
semiconductor device, drawing a few sketches and equations on a
blackboard. We called it a charge-coupled device: A 'CCD.' When we had

the shops at Bell Labs make up the device, it worked exactly as expected, much to the surprise of our colleagues."

When asked by the ARRL how he felt about winning the Nobel Prize, he exclaimed, "I feel great! Even though there's a lot of nonsense to go through with it, it's worth it and winning it does wonders for your ego. Aside from the initial shock and having to go through piles of mail, e-mail and returning telephone calls, I know that will calm down. As for the long-range future, I'm getting many invitations to give talks. Next year, I've been invited to speak at a major conference in Seoul, South Korea, another in Portland Oregon and another in Switzerland. I've been invited to France to give a talk, China, too. We need to sit down with a calendar and figure it all out. Having a Nobel makes a big dent in your lifestyle."

Smith told the ARRL that he knew the CCD was under consideration for the Nobel Prize, "but we didn't know exactly if, or when, it would happen. Research that wins the Nobel is often done many years beforehand. In my case, this was 40 year old research. The Prize Committee wants to make sure the research has stood the test of time.

"Amateur Radio has always attracted individuals who want to understand and exploit nature's laws," fellow Nobel Laureate Joe Taylor, K1JT, told the ARRL. "These are essential characteristics for first-rate scientists, as well. The 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics honors the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit -- the CCD sensor used in digital cameras, the Hubble Space Telescope and many other scientific and consumer devices. It was no great surprise to learn that one of the Laureates, George Smith, is also a radio amateur." Taylor was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1993 <http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/physics/laureates/1993/> "for the discovery of a new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation."

Next month, Smith will travel to Stockholm, Sweden for the award ceremony on December 10. It is certain that his picture will be taken scores of times by the international media, made possible through the technology that he and Boyle pioneered. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/03/11182/?nc=1> for more information, including how a CCD works.

==> + OPERATING: FALL FREQUENCY MEASURING TEST THIS MONTH

The W1AW Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) has taken several different formats over the past few years. This year, we return to the "classic" FMT -- measuring the frequency of an unmodulated carrier. Accurate frequency measurement is required of all hams for both regulatory compliance -- "stay in the band!" -- and operating convenience, particularly on the new digital modes. The W1AW FMT will run on November 12, 2009 at 0245 UTC (this is Wednesday evening, November 11, 2009 at 9:45 PM EST). It will replace any W1AW bulletin normally scheduled for that time. It is recommended that participants listen to

W1AW's transmissions prior to the event to get an idea of conditions to see which band (or bands) will be best for measurement purposes. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/02/11175/?nc=1>.

==> + LOOK FOR THE DECEMBER QST IN YOUR MAILBOX

The December issue of QST <http://www.arrl.org/qst> is jam-packed with all sorts of news and information that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. From product reviews to experiments, from public service to on-the-air activities, the upcoming issue of QST has something for just about everyone. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/04/11183/?nc=1> to discover what's in store for you in the December issue of QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> ADVOCACY: MORE COSPONSORS FOR HR 2160

Earlier this week, two more Congressional Representatives -- Andre Carson (D-IN-7), and C.W. Bill Young (R-FL-10) -- pledged their support for HR 2160 <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_bills&docid=f:h2160ih.txt.pdf>, The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, bringing the total number of cosponsors to 31, including original sponsor Sheila Jackson-Lee <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1> (D-TX-18). HR 2160 is also sponsored by W. Todd Akin (R-MO-2), Michael Arcuri (D-NY-24), Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD-6), John Boozman (R-AR-3), Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), Geoff Davis (R-KY-4), Bob Filner (D-CA-51), Scott Garrett (R-NJ-5), Bart Gordon (D-TN-6), Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY-22), Michael Honda (D-CA-15), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH-15), Tom Latham (R-IA-4), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-16), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-9), Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI-11), Charlie Melancon (D-LA-3), Candice Miller (R-MI-10), Dennis Moore (D-KS-3), John Olver (D-MA-1), Bill Posey (R-FL-15), Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA-46), Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2), Michael Turner (R-OH-3), Peter Welch (D-VT), David Wu (D-OR-1) and Don Young (R-AK). On the Senate side of Capitol Hill, S 1755 <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/07/11127/?nc=1> -- also called The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- cleared the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee with a favorable recommendation by voice vote. It now proceeds to committee staff to prepare the report for the full Senate. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/12/10818> for information on how to encourage your Congressional representative to sponsor HR 2160.

==> ARRL RECOGNIZES: THREE AMATEURS INDUCTED INTO CONSUMER ELECTRONICS HALL OF FAME

Earlier this year, the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) named 13 men -- including three radio amateurs -- to the Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame. The honorees were inducted last month at CEA's Industry

Forum in Phoenix, Arizona. Former ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Walt Stinson, W0CP, of Englewood, Colorado; Former ARRL Vice President and Central Division Director R.H.G. Mathews, W9ZN (ex-9ZN) (SK), and Karl Hassel, W9PXW (ex-8AKG) (SK). Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/02/11177/?nc=1>.

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

Compiled by ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members, such as a recent webinar concerning Amateur Radio and pecuniary interests, the Fourth Annual ARRL On-Line Auction, orientation for newly elected Section Managers and more. This installment covers the month of October. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/11/02/11179/?nc=1>.

==> + MARS: MARS CUTS RIBBON ON NEW PENTAGON STATION

A military institution designed to provide emergency communications has moved to new quarters in the Pentagon. On October 21, John G. Grimes, the former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration, cut the ribbon on the new Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) station, now located on the fifth floor of the Pentagon. The facility -- manned by the Pentagon Amateur Radio Club (PARC) -- is packed with amateur radios, radiotelephone patches, computers and data links. "This is a great facility, manned totally by volunteers," Grimes told the crowd who came to see the new station. "It's a crucial capability for our country." Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/03/11180/?nc=1>.

==> NOW YOU KNOW!: HIRAM PERCY MAXIM AND THE W1AW STATION

More than 1000 visitors come to see ARRL and operate W1AW each year. Each visitor has a chance to tour ARRL HQ and meet and talk with staff, and see all that the League does to promote the Amateur Radio Service. When they go over to W1AW, some guests want to know if the station was once the home of Hiram Percy Maxim, cofounder and first President of the ARRL.

In February 1936, when Maxim died of pneumonia on his way back from visiting Lick Observatory <http://www.ucolick.org/> on Mt Hamilton in San Jose, California, the ARRL HQ station -- W1MK -- was located at Brainard Field <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartford-Brainard_Airport> in Hartford. In March 1936, the Connecticut River flooded and the building where the station was housed was destroyed by the flood waters. The League's Board of Directors decided that a new station be built on a more suitable site in memory of Maxim. In December 1936, the FCC -- in the first action of its kind -- assigned the call W1AW to ARRL in memoriam. The ARRL purchased a 7 acre site in Newington, about 5 miles southwest of Brainard Field. From the flood until September 1938, W1MK operated from ARRL Headquarters, then on LaSalle Road in

West Hartford. On September 2, 1938 -- what would have been Maxim's 69th birthday -- W1AW, the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, was dedicated, with the ceremony broadcast across the country by CBS Radio. So, no, the building where W1AW is located was never home to Hiram Percy Maxim; in fact, he never saw it. But even so, we know that his spirit lives on every time we sit down at a radio. Now you know!

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "You may go, with Sun or moon <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/robinhood.html>" Cook, K7RA, reports: The recent sunspot activity has drifted beyond view, but that region returns in the middle of November. The average daily sunspot number for October was 7, the highest in the past 19 months. Coming up this weekend is the ARRL CW Sweepstakes -- there is a possibility of a coronal hole causing unsettled geomagnetic activity, though the past few days have been exceptionally quiet. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, November 6. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' Robin Hood. To a Friend <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/robinhood.html>.

==> + ARRL RECOGNIZES: JOHN E. PORTUNE, W6NBC, WINS OCTOBER QST COVER PLAQUE AWARD

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for October is John E. Portune, W6NBC, for his article "The Quadrifilar Helix as a 2 Meter Base Antenna Station." Congratulations John! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the November issue by Monday, November 30.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xm1dTXtT5vg> This week is the ARRL Sweepstakes (CW) <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html> on November 7-8. There is an NCCC Sprint on November 6 and the Ukrainian DX Contest is November 7-8. The North America Collegiate ARC Championship (CW) is November 7-9. The SKCC Weekend Sprint is November 8. Next week, there is another NCCC Sprint on November 13. The Bill Windle QSO Party is November 14. The Worked All Europe DX Contest (RTTY), the Kentucky QSO Party, the JIDX Phone Contest is November 14-15 and the OK/OM DX Contest (CW) are November 14-15. The CQ-WE Contest (SSB, CW and Digital) is November 14-16. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is November 16 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is November 19. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest

Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> DO YOU KNOW?: A TRIVIA ANSWER FOR OUR READERS

Last week, ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA, told ARRL Letter readers about the long and proud history of the ARRL Sweepstakes <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/29/11170/?nc=1>, mentioning that at one point, The Philippines was a multiplier in the Sweepstakes, as was Cuba (as part of the West Indies Section). We wondered what years that The Philippines and the West Indies Sections ceased to be multipliers in Sweepstakes. Unfortunately, we didn't receive any correct answers. The Philippines was no longer a Section as of 1946 and in August 1988, two new Sections -- Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands -- replaced the West Indies Section (Cuba disappeared from the West Indies Section in 1940). Thanks to everyone who sent in answers. Look for another trivia question in a future edition of The ARRL Letter.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, November 22, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 4, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

478. Help with Call Sign Lookup

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-06 01:08:08 UTC
From: AndyS <andysharpe@juno.com>
Message-ID: <18e08b16-2e21-4173-98b5-280add7a36c2@j4g2000yqe.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1788

Andy (W4OAH) writes:

I have been trying to find out the ham call my son had back in
1980. He doesn't remember, and I have been unable to find a
callbook covering the 1980-18=983 years.

If anyone has one of these, or knows of how I can track the
callsign down, I would appreciate it.....

His name: Michael Andrew Sharpe of Plano, Texas
Novice license.

If anyone can send me an Email with the call sign, my
address is: andysharpe@juno.com

Thanks to anyone who can help me with this...

Andy, W4OAH, in Eureka, Texas

479. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1682 - November 6 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-06 04:12:55 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091105193619.0175f270@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1789
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1682 - November 6 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1682 with a release date of Friday, November 6th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Georgia hams are given a $165,000 grant to build a D-Star rescue radio network, two hams help save a life on Catalina Island, the next Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference will take place in Curacao and two pre-teens come up with a cheap solution to the Digital Reception problem in the USA. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1682 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: GEORGIA HAMS GIVEN $165,000 TO BUILD D-STAR RESCUE RADIO NETWORK

Its one of the largest government grants ever given to ham radio emergency communications. This as $165,000 in Federal funding has been secured by Georgia Emergency Management Agency to complete a statewide D-Star based ham radio emergency communications network.. Amateur Radio Newsline's David Black, KB4KCH, has the story of the grant and the all digital rescue radio network that it will create:

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The network's creation is the result of a dream that started in 2005 according to John Davis, WB4QDX. That's when a vision was born for what amateur radio emergency communications could one day achieve in the state of Georgia. Mark Fehlig, WA6NGC, is the former director of Engineering for the state's Public Broadcasting System. When the opportunity arose to install two amateur radio antennas on each of nine television towers providing statewide coverage, Fehlig jumped into action. Fehlig designated Georgia's Amateur Radio Emergency Service to control the use of those sites for emergency communications. The next task was to figure out the best technology to use at those sites.

Linked FM repeaters and packet were among the modes considered. But radio amateurs were also watching emerging D-Star technology. They recognized it as a state of the art platform providing simultaneous voice and data communications. Knowing that D-star also allows repeaters to be linked on a flexible basis and that it permits simultaneous voice and low speed data along with high speed Internet

connectivity at 1-point-2 Gigahertz...and the decision was made to go D-star for the state's new system.

When the network is finished, radio amateurs will have access to voice and data repeaters on all nine towers across the state, operating on 2 meters, 440 MHz and 1-point-2 Gigahertz. Because those towers are strategically located to provide maximum public television coverage, amateur radio communications will benefit from wide area coverage, as well. Commercial grade inch and 5/8 transmission lines will connect the antennas, which will be between 500 and 600 feet above ground. Georgia's Public Broadcasting Network will provide indoor space for equipment, along with backup power at each site. Internet access will be available, too, thanks to the broadcasting system's DS-3 data network...this means flexible linking of repeaters will be possible using a stock D-Star interface.

The federal money will also pay for 20 dual-band D-star radios to be installed at EMA offices across the state, along with a portable UHF D-Star repeater available for emergency deployment. In addition, three 1-point-2 Gigahertz D-star radios with laptops for sending data and photos from field locations will also be purchased. The money will also be used to build a robust reflector to serve the state's network during emergency conditions and also for general use during non-emergency times. Two of the emergency network's D-star repeaters are already on the air. One is located at Pembroke, Georgia, near Savannah. The second operates from atop Stone Mountain, serving the Atlanta metro area. The complete Georgia D-star amateur radio emergency communications network is expected to be in operation in early 2010.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm David Black, KB4KCH, at the South-East bureau in Birmingham, Alabama.

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The Georgia network will complement other D-Star based emergency communications systems planned or in operation in the neighboring states of Alabama, Florida and South Carolina. Once all are in operation, it will create a regional ham radio emergency capability across the American Southeast. This monetary grant is only second in size to one of $250,000 given by the governor of Oregon in 2007 to that states ham radio first responders. This, to build a Winlink-based state-wide amateur radio emergency communications network. (WB4QDX, Georgia ARES via Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: TWO HAMS CREDITED WITH SAVING A LIFE ON CATALINA ISLAND

Karl Tso, KI6PCW, and wife Deborah Ava, KJ6CRZ, put their ham radio emergency training to use to help rescue an unidentified man after an accident on Catalina Island. This as the recently trained volunteer ham radio operators rescued a man after he fell more than 40 feet onto rocks below.

Tso and Ava are both of Topanga, California which is a Los Angeles suburb and are members of the Topanga Disaster Radio Team. The couple had climbed a hill on Catalina Island to check out a repeater when they saw a 61-year-old man bleeding and moaning.

Tso and Ava had their hand-held radios with them. They used the equipment to make contact with other radio amateurs on the California mainland, who called 911 to report the emergency. Los Angeles County firefighter paramedics responded and the injured man was quickly flown by medevac helicopter to St Mary's Hospital in Long Beach for treatment.

Authorities say that the couple's quick thinking and knowledge of ham radio helped save the injured man's life. The Topanga Disaster Radio Team they work with is a part of the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness. (Published news reports)

**

RESCUE RADIO: GAREC-2010 TO BE HELD IN OCTOBER 2010 IN CURACAO

GAREC-2010, the next Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference it will take place next fall in Curacao. The dates will be October 11th and 12th with the theme of the meeting to be "Learning through practicing.. More details of next Octobers gathering will be announced as they become available. Meantime keep an eye on the conference website for updates. The URL is www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec (OH1VR)

**

ON THE AIR: HAMS TO HELP FIGHT AIDS WITH HIV/AIDS AWARENESS THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO OPERATION

Ham radio is joining the world-wide campaign to help find a cure for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome better known by the acronym AIDS. Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

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To do its part to conquer this killer disease, a special amateur radio station will be operating at the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS or UNAIDS headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. This, from December 1st to the 7th using the special event callsign 4U1AIDS. The operation is part of an invitation from UNAIDS to all peoples globally to observe the "World AIDS Day" and demonstrate global H-I-V awareness.

Begun on December 1st, 1988, the aim of "World AIDS Day" is to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education regarding H-I-V and AIDS. UNAIDS estimates, there are now 33.2 million people living with H-I-V, including 2.5 million children.

Those who hold QSO's with 4U1AIDS on any three bands will awarded a special commemorative World AIDS Day Award certificate. Amateur radio stations that have radio contact with 4U1AIDS on five bands will be

awarded a special commemorative UNAIDS pennant. All contacts will be sent a special 4U1AIDS QSL card.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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For further information, please contact with Andrey Fedorov, UNAIDS, 20 Avenue Appia, CH-1211, Geneva 27, Switzerland. More information is on-line at www.DX-World.com/4u1aids (UNAIDS release)

**

RADIO RULES: CANADA BEGINS ISSUING 500 kHz EXPERIMENTAL LICENSES - FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC CONTACT MADE

Some good news for our listeners to the North. After months of negotiations between Radio Amateurs of Canada and telecommunications regulator Industry Canada the first two licenses granted to Canadians for experiments at 504 to 509 kHz have been issued. This, in preparation for the 2012 World Radiocommunications Conference.

Jack Leahy, VE1ZZ, has been assigned call sign VX9PSO in the Developmental Service for his experimental transmissions. Joe Craig, VO1NA, has been assigned call sign VX9MRC. Both of these stations have been on the air already, with VX9PSO having been reported at 504.6 kHz and VX9MRC at 507.77 kHz.

And this late news. Finbar O'Connor, EI0CF, in County Donegal ,Ireland reports that he has had a QSO with Joe Craig, VX9MRC. He says that Joe was on 507.77 kHz while he was on 507..056 kHz. The respective reports were, EI0CF heard in Canada at 559 and VX9MRC heard at 529. The mode was CW, using straight Morse keys.

This is the first Ireland to Canada contact on the 500 kHz band. Signal reports to any of the now operational 500 kHz stations can be sent to their call book addresses. Two more authorizations, in Ontario and British Columbia, are expected soon. (Radio Amateurs of Canada, IRTS)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N7GAD Puget Sound Amateur Radio Club repeater serving Seattle, Washington.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RESTRUCTURING: THAILAND EXPANDS 40 METER HAM ALLOCATION

Thailand's 7 MHz expansion has received a go ahead from that nations telecommunications regulator. John Gagen, W2YR reports that he's just received information from the International Secretary of the Radio Amateur Society of Thailand that the Thai National Telecommunications Council has approved the society's recent request for the expansion of 40 meters. This giving hams in that nation a primary status of 7.0 to 7.2 MHz.

For those not aware, this is the same bandplan that had been approved internationally at the WRC-03 conference and was to be effective March 29 this year, pending approval on a country-by-country basis. For Thailand it happens about the time that this weeks newscast goes to air on Friday, November 6th. (W2YR via OPDX)

**

ARISS CELEBRATES ITS 500th SCHOOL ROOM CONTACT

The 500th ARISS classroom to space station contact has taken[place. On Tuesday, October 27th, I-S-S Commander Frank De Winne, ON1DWN answered questions from students at the new Copernic Science Center in Warsaw, Poland. This was the 500th school contact since ARISS began operations in 2000.

This was a telebridge contact operated by ARISS ground station of Shayne Lind, VK4KHZ located in Queensland, Australia. At the end of the contact, De Winne thanked Lynd for the many years of providing ARISS telebridge contacts. Lynd in turn shared these thanks with his colleagues of the 11 other telebridge ground stations which cover all five continents. (ARISS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: STUDENT PAPERS INVITED TO FLY ON ARISSAT 1

Still with ham radio space and educational news, word that the ARISSAT One development team is inviting school students from around the world to submit papers or other visual items that will be flown on that ham radio satellite. Submissions should be in jpg or pdf format such as a paper or a study done on science, technology, engineering, or math. Also accepted will be items such as a drawing of space craft , a schematic, a journal kept on an educational topic, a story, photo or news article about a class doing a hands on educational project.

To take part, the student or teacher should submit the material by e-mail to Dave Jordan's to aa4kn (at) amsat (dot) org and also copied to gaston (dot) bertels (at) skynet (dot) be. They will check that content is appropriate to students and select those to fly on ARISSAT One. The deadline for submissions is on Sunday, November 15th. (ON4WF)

**

ENFORCEMENT: UNLICENSED BROADCASTER HIT WITH $2500 FINE

The FCC has issued a $2500 fine to Frankie Grover of Lakeland, Florida. This for operating an unlicensed transmitter on 87.9 MHz from a location known as the Kingston Lakeside Inn and using the unassigned call letters WGBC FM

According to the FCC, its agents used direction finding to locate the signal. On August 18, 2009, the Tampa Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Mr. Grover in the amount of $10,000. This, for the apparent willful and repeated violation of Section 301 of the Act.

Grover submitted a response to the NAL. He admitted to operating the station but requested a reduction or cancellation of the proposed forfeiture saying the level of proposed fine would pose a financial hardship. He also provided the FCC with the required financial records to prove his claim. The FCC accepted his evidence and has reduced the fine to $2500 which he was given the customary 30 days to pay or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: IRMA FRAUSTO HAS COMPANY IN THE UK

You probably remember the story of Irma Frausto of Compton, California that we reported on a few weeks ago. Her amplified TV antenna allegedly self-oscillated on 840 MHz and caused interfere to a cell site. The FCC sent her a Citation even though there was nothing in the Commission's write up to suggest that she knew about the self-oscillations or had the wherewithal to eliminate them.

Well now Irma has company. A 12 year old schoolboy in Great Britain by the name of Nickie Chamberlain has been busted because his self-oscillating TV antenna was interfering with air traffic over his home in Linslade, Beds in the UK. The Ofcom engineer ordered the father to dispose of the aerial immediately.

Air traffic controllers first noticed the communication problems on the flight path into London Luton Airport on October 6th .According to Ofcom, pilots coming into land at the airport were loosing contact with the control tower because the faulty antenna preamp was transmitting on the same frequency as the aircraft radios. You can read more at http://tinyurl.com/yhj37ab (CGC, Telegraph.com)

**

RESCUE RADIO: IARU GLOBALSET 2009 ON NOVEMBER 14

Saturday November 14TH, is the date of the International Amateur Radio Union will activate "GlobalSET 2009.", This is a Global Simulated Emergency Test running from 1800 to 2200 UTC that encourages hams world wide to pass simulated emergency traffic using standard National Traffic System format.

This drill is being billed as a great opportunity for all radio amateurs to observe and their practice important traffic passing

skills. These are skills that are deemed fundamental to the role of amateur radio in crisis communications conditions.

Rules and a list of participating stations may be found at www.iaru-r1.org. Search under the heading, Emergency Communications Working Group. (IARU)

**

RADIO LAW: REFARMING TV SPECTRUM FOR BROADBAND

Federal regulators are considering taking back some spectrum from television broadcasters and auctioning it off to wireless companies. This so as to increase the availability of wireless broadband services for the general public.

At this stage, FCC officials are mostly trying to get input from broadcasters and others. The proposal will be released in February of 2010. TV station owners are likely to fight the plan, although the FCC is envisioning paying broadcasters for any airwaves that are repossessed and auctioned away. (FCC)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: SEVHFS CONFERENCE CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Southeastern VHF Society is calling for the submission of papers and presentations for the upcoming 14th Annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference. The event is slated to be held at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky on April 23rd and 24th of 2010. The deadline for the submission is February 5, For more information please visit www dot sevhfs dot org on the World Wide Web. (K4IDC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: TWO FCC SPECTRUM EXPERTS TO LECTURE DOWN-UNDER.

Some names in the news. The New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development has announced that it will welcome FCC spectrum experts William Sharkey and Mark Bykowsky to lecture down-under. Both are Senior Economists at the FCC Office of Strategic Planning in Washington, D.C.. The two will present a seminar on Current Research in Spectrum Allocation Issues and Auctions. The seminar session is being sponsored by the Ministry and the PING Research Group at Auckland University. (WIA News)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: WA6ITF RETIRES FROM FOX TV AFTER 30 YEARS

And from Los Angeles comes word that our own producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, has retired from Fox Television after a career that spanned close to three decades at the networks flagship station KTTV. He started in 1980 as a bench technician maintaining 3/4 inch U-Matic videocassette recorders used by the stations news operation. Over the

years he did just about every job one finds at a television station. He says that the last 12 years working as the engineering contact with the news department have been the ones he has enjoyed the most. There he's not only worked the technical side but also has been on the air several times as an expert on all things electronic and radio communications for news stories reported by Hal Eisner, Phil Schuman and others.

Bill tells Newsline that he's only retired from broadcasting but not from life. He says that he has a number of projects he wants to undertake including the production of a television documentary on a medical researcher and completing the script for a two act stage play. He also will be continuing his V-H-F column in Worldradio Magazine and producing these weekly Amateur Radio Newsline reports. That coupled with a wife, daughter, son-in-law and four very active grandkids will keep Bill a very busy 67 year old boy.

Pictures of his surprise retirement party put on by his many friends at KTTV are on Bill's photo album page on the Facebook Social Networking service. Look for his album under the name Bill Pasternak +titled Saying Goodbye to KTTV after Almost 30 years. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ARRL PRESIDENT JOEL HARRISON, W5ZN, NOT TO SEEK REELECTION

Someone else retiring is ARRL President, Joel Harrison, W5ZN. Late last week Harrison announced that he has decided not to seek reelection when his current term expires on January 16, 2010.

Joel Harrison served two terms as ARRL president. He began his ham radio political career in 1983 when he became the Section Manager in the League's Arkansas Section. Subsequently, he has served as Delta Division Director and as an ARRL Vice President. In 2000, he was elected First Vice President. He was elected League President in 2006. (ARRL)

**

BREAK 2

Coming to you this week from beneath the Southern Cross in Auckland, New Zealand, this is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: FORMER ARRL DIRECTOR PAUL VYDARNEY, WB2VUK - SK

Some sad news to report. Word that former ARRL Director Paul Vydareny, WB2VUK, of Tarrytown, New York, passed away Thursday, October 22, from a brain aneurysm.

Paul Vydareny had a long record of volunteer service with the ARRL. Prior to becoming Director, he served as Section Manager of the Eastern New York Section from 1980 to 1996 and as Vice Director from 1987 to 1996. In those days Vice Directors were once allowed to serve simultaneously as Section Managers.

Vydareny was elevated from Vice Director to Director when then-Director Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, was elected ARRL First Vice President . But he resigned as Director in September of 1996, citing job and church obligations as preventing him from doing what he considered a proper job of fulfilling his duties as Director.

Paul Vydarney, WB2VUK, was only age 65 when he passed. In his honor every net in the 2009 New York City Marathon was announced as: "This is -- whomever -- at the mic of the WB2VUK Marathon Network." (ARRL, W2ML)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: LUSAT-1 FALLS SILENT

AMSAT-Argentina reports that its LUSAT-1, LO-19 ham radio satellite stopped transmitting CW telemetry on 437.125 MHz on or around October 20th. LU1ESY says that he last received a signal on October 11th after which he noted a drift in the downlink frequency beyond the expected Doppler shift.

AMSAT-Argentina says that it hopes to revive LUSAT to allow it to celebrate its 20 years in space next January 23. It also adds that it welcomes any reception reports of the now out of communications ham radio bird. (AMSAT-Argentina)

**

RADIO HISTORY: THE WORLDS FIRST RADIO STATION

What is the world's first radio station? Although AM radio broadcasts were tested in 1906 and used for voice and music broadcasts up until WW1 it wasn't until 1916 in Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania when 8XK began regularly scheduled broadcasts. 8XK would receive the first official broadcasting license in 1920 with the call sign KDKA.

But there's more to this story. At 6:00 PM on November 2, 1920 the US presidential election returns were announced from a shack in East Pittsburgh by Leo Rosenberg and KDKA became the world's first commercial radio station. More on this story is at the National Museum of Broadcasting website at the U-R-L found in this weeks printed Newsline report.

(Do Not Read:
http://nmbpgh.org/conrad_project/historical_background/commercial.htm)
(K3VR)

**

ON THE AIR: MARCONI NOBEL 100 AWARD.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of inventor Guglieliamo Marconi receiving the Nobel Prize, a special on the air event from Sweden is planned. The idea is to listen for and work 10 different special event "SI" prefix stations between November 9th and December 10th.

The calls to listen out for are SI0GM, SI1GM, SI2GM, SI3GM, SI4GM, SI5GM, SI6GM and SI7GM. Other Swedish stations may be using the special prefix SI, but only the above stations count. Each anniversary station counts once per band. No endorsements. Logs go to SSA Awards Manager, Bengt Hogkvist, Ostbygatan 24 C, SE-531 37 Lidkoping, Sweden. (SSA AWARDS)

**

ON THE AIR: INTERNATIONAL NAVAL CONTEST DECEMBER 12 - 13

The International Naval Contest 2009 sponsored by Portuguese Navy Hamradio Club takes place starting at 16:00 UTC on Saturday, December 12th and concluding at 15:59 UTC on Sunday the 13th. Modes used are only CW and SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. For more information by e-mail please write to inc (dot)contest09 (at) nra (dot) pt

**

DX

In DX, word that DL7VSN is once again heading to Tanzania and will probably be active as 5H1HS, this time from the Kilimanjaro area. He was expected to begin his operations on November 1st but the length of his length of stay was not mentioned. Activity will be 160 through 10 meters using mainly CW and RTTY. If all plans go well he may also get to activate his 5th Islands on the Air group from this DXCC entity for one or two days. DL7VSN says that he will also be in the Serengeti and Tarangire National Park starting November 18th, and hopes to be active from these areas as well. QSL via his home callsign.

G4OHX, will be active as 5R8HX from Madagascar between December 28th and January 3rd of 2010. His operation will be mainly using CW. He will also be active portable ZS5 between January 4th to the 17th. QSL direct only via his home callsign.

If you are looking for a contact with Singapore then listen out for 9V1JP who is a new operator from there and has been active on 20 meters. James says via QRZ.com that he is in a very challenging environment and is trying hard to put out a decent signal on HF. He also says that in the QSL area that he is in the process of designing them, and they should be good and ready to begin sending them out in the spring of 2010.

JK2VOC says that he will be active from BA4TB station in China. This, between November 27th to the 30th including the CQ World Wide DX CW

Contest on November 28th and 29th. QSL via JK2VOC.

Lastly, YV5IAL will be portable CE0 from Easter Island between January 8th and 11th of 2010. This will be a QRP, portable, holiday style operation. Activity will use the PSK31 digital mode on 14070.15 kHz from 2200 to 0100 UTC daily. He may occasionally be on 40, 30 and 15 meters as well. QSL via this operation via his home callsign.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: KIDS SOLVE THE DTV RECEPTION PROBLEM

And finally this week, if you or someone you know are having reception problems on your new digital television or converter box, the problem is likely with the antenna. Most rabbit ear or loop indoor antennas are insufficient for DTV reception. Unfortunately, a lot of folks are not allowed to put antennas on their roof. With a solution, enter Naiomi and Noah Miller. They are the pre-teen children of FCC O-E-T attorney James Miller. With a little help from dad, the two kids take you on a "Watch Mr. Wizard" like journey into how to homebrew your own indoor D-T-V antenna using the magic of science found in everyday living:

--

Audio here from YouTube.com

--

The antenna that the Miller kids built is based on the Gray-Hoverman Digital TV Antenna design but without the rear reflector. It in turn is rooted on the design of the late Doyt R. Hoverman who created and did the early work on this design long before the days of computer antenna modeling programs. More on this design can be found at www.digitalhome.ca/ota/superantenna. You can see the video of Naiomi and Noah Miller building their home-brew version of it on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaYDtOqpTOI. Trust me when I tell you that it's a few of the best moments you will spend on-line this week. (CGC, Audio courtesy of YouTube.com)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk in Los Angeles in the USA, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, in Auckland, New Zealand saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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480. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1682 - November 6 2009 (Corrected URL)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-07 04:12:13 UTC
From: Bill Horne <bill@horneQRM.net>
Message-ID: <c9udnXVqu-BYb2nXnZ2dnUVZ_qGdnZ2d@speakeasy.net>
Source record: 1790

William M. Pasternak wrote:

> THAT FINAL ITEM: KIDS SOLVE THE DTV RECEPTION PROBLEM
>
> And finally this week, if you or someone you know are having reception
> problems on your new digital television or converter box, the problem
> is likely with the antenna. [snip]
>
> The antenna that the Miller kids built is based on the Gray-Hoverman
> Digital TV Antenna design but without the rear reflector. [snip]
> You can see the video of Naiomi and Noah Miller building their
> home-brew version of it on YouTube at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaYDtOqpTOI (Corrected URL).

73,

Bill, W1AC

481. Radiomans' weekend

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-09 23:34:39 UTC
From: KØHB <kzerohb@gmail.com>
Message-ID: <hda8tv$211q$1@adenine.netfront.net>
Source record: 1791

What weekend!

CW Sweepstakes is my "radio high" each fall. This is a Radioman skill contest, not a computer operator skill contest. The long, complex, and unpredictable exchange emphasizes operator skill, and the crowded bands challenge your station design skills.

I was pumped for a week before, and it will take another week for the adrenaline to dissipate!

Only a little over 51 weeks till the next one.

Colleen and I ran up 1,000+ Q's, worked a sweep, and repaired an R4C "on the fly".

Thanks for the Q, Jim.

73, de Hans, K0HB
--
"Just a boy and his Radio"
Sea stories here ---> http://k0hb.spaces.live.com/
Request QSL at ---> http://www.clublog.org/logsearch/K0HB
All valid QSL requests honored with old fashioned paper QSL!
LoTW participant

482. The ARRL Letter for November 12, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-12 22:41:35 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091112224100.6F490AF545C@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1792
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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**********************************************
The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
**********************************************

November 12, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

ARRL Home Page <http://www.arrl.org/>ARRL Letter Archive
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
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Gulf Coast
- + Operating: ARRL Sweepstakes Takes to the Phone Bands Next Weekend
- + Operating: WRTC 2010 Organizers Announce Teams
- + Amateur Radio in Space: Idaho School Incorporates ARISS into
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- ARRL Says "Thank You" to Veterans
- Now You Know!: US Call Signs Not Issued by the FCC
- Solar Update
- This Week on the Radio

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: LATE SEASON TROPICAL STORM IDA COMES CALLING ON
GULF COAST

With only weeks to go before the end of the 2009 hurricane season,
Tropical Storm Ida formed off the coast of Nicaragua, making landfall
as a hurricane in the morning hours of November 5. The storm lost
significant strength as it moved through Nicaragua and Honduras, only
to reemerge in the Caribbean a day later, impacting El Salvador and
Mexico. Ida gained strength, becoming a Category 2 storm with winds
peaking at 105 miles per hour in the Gulf of Mexico. The path for Ida
at this point was clearly toward the Gulf Coast of the US, with a
projected landfall somewhere between Louisiana and the Florida
panhandle. As Ida's path became more focused, Amateur Radio operators
and ARESÂ® groups concentrated on increasing their level of readiness
should there be a need to respond. Read more here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/12/11192/?nc=1>.

==> + OPERATING: ARRL SWEEPSTAKES TAKES TO THE PHONE BANDS NEXT WEEKEND
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The SSB portion of the ARRL November Sweepstakes <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html> -- the premier domestic HF contest -- takes place next weekend, running 2100 UTC Saturday, November 21 to 0300 Monday, November 23 (or 4 PM Saturday to 10 PM Sunday EST). According to ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, the event -- first called "The January Contest <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/10/29/11170/?nc=1>" -- started back in 1929 as a competition for handling formal traffic messages. "Sweepstakes is one of the oldest traditions in Amateur Radio," Kutzko said. "The contest exchange contains more elements than usual, an homage to traffic-handling. If you have never participated in Sweepstakes, you are really missing out on some serious fun!" Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/12/11194/?nc=1>.

==> + OPERATING: WRTC 2010 ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCE TEAMS

Last month, after a grueling selection process, the organizers of the 2010 World Radiosport Team Championships (WRTC) selected the 44 team leaders who will compete in the event next year. These 44 team leaders, representing all six continents, have each chosen a partner. The rules state that while the leader's partner may be from a different call sign area, they must be from the same country as the leader. WRTC, held every few years, takes place during the 2010 IARU HF World Championships, July 10-11 and will be held just outside Moscow. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/11/11191/?nc=1>.

==> ATLANTIC DIVISION TO HOST WEBINAR

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/333780681> Periodically, the ARRL's Atlantic Division hosts a "webinar" -- an interactive Web-based seminar, designed to facilitate communication between a small number of presenters and a large remote audience using the Internet. On Friday, November 13 at 9 PM EST, Chuck Blocher, PhD, KC2IQV, will present a webinar entitled The Emotional Go Kit: Are You Prepared? "As hams serve as emergency and public service communicators, we prepare our Go Kits and necessary gear to provide essential communications," said webinar sponsor ARRL Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR. "How prepared are you concerning your emotional wellness during one of these events? This webinar addresses the emotional well-being and preparedness for those Amateur Radio communicators who participate in emergency and public service situations." Please click here <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/333780681> to register for this informative, interactive Internet meeting.

==> + AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: STS 129 -- STOCKING THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Besides taking spare parts to the International Space Station (ISS) this coming Monday, the space shuttle Atlantis (STS-129) will deliver the module antennas for Columbus -- the laboratory built by the European Space Agency (ESA) and host of two Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) antennas. "Lou McFadin, W5DID, a member of the AMSAT Board of Directors and a key volunteer for ARISS,

showed the astronauts the best ways for them to safely unpack and assemble the antennas and associated cables once they and the hardware reach the ISS," said ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO. "They reviewed how to maneuver and install the antennas during the spacewalk. Lou also oversaw the re-packing of the antennas and the onboard flight kit that accompanies shipments going to the ISS." Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/12/11195/?nc=1>.

==> + AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: IDAHO SCHOOL INCORPORATES ARISS INTO CURRICULUM

With more than 500 Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contacts conducted, thousands of students have experienced intriguing science and technology lessons -- plus the thrill of speaking with an astronaut who was on the International Space Station (ISS). According to ARRL ARISS Program Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, each school uses the ARISS events in different ways. From school to school, ARISS volunteers see a great range in the types of activities around the event, including integrating the activities into each grade level's curriculum. The lesson in common to all schools includes discussions on what Amateur Radio is, what ARISS is and how the worldwide ARISS Team works together. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/05/11185/?nc=1> to read about how one elementary school in Idaho integrated Amateur Radio, space -- and more -- into their curriculum.

==> ARRL SAYS "THANK YOU" TO VETERANS

On Wednesday, November 11, Veterans Day -- called Remembrance Day or Armistice Day outside the US -- was celebrated all over the world. Originally a holiday that marked the end of World War I -- the "War to End All Wars" -- has been set aside to honor all who have served their country. It was on November 11, 1918, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, that Germany signed the Armistice, formally ending the hostilities that had been ongoing since 1914.

The ARRL would like to take this opportunity to thank our service veterans. Whether they served on active duty or reserve, during peace time or time of conflict, they served their county with honor. We also would be remiss if we did not remember the families of those veterans who kept the homefires burning bright; without their love and support, our veterans would have indeed been alone.

ARRL Headquarters has its share of service veterans: Contributing Editor Al Brogdon, W1AB (Army); Publications Sales Associate Mark Dzamba, KB1FMY (Air Force); Assistant VEC Manager Perry Green, WY1O (Army); Volunteer Archivist Charles Griffen, W1GYR (Air Force); Technical Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR (Army); News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA (Coast Guard); DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L (Army); Reprints Specialist Tony Nesta, AA1RZ (Navy); Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager Dave Patton, NN1N (Navy); Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA (Army); Field and Regulatory

Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG (Air Force); Education & Technology Program Coordinator Mark Spencer, WA8SME (Air Force), and Archivist Perry Williams, W1UED (Air Force).

Thank you for your service -- your sacrifice and the sacrifice of your fellow service members is not forgotten.

==> NOW YOU KNOW!: US CALL SIGNS NOT ISSUED BY THE FCC

If you're an American ham, chances are that your call sign was issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A "no brainer," right? Well, if you're an American ham who happens to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the US bases in the Antarctic, your call sign is not issued by the FCC -- it's issued by the base commander. Guantanamo Bay (or Gitmo as it's commonly called) uses the KG4 prefix, followed by a two-letter suffix; this block is reserved exclusively for American hams at Gitmo. As for Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antarctic_Treaty_System>, signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs; the National Science Foundation received their block on July 1, 1959. US military hams in Japan and Korea are also issued special call signs:

- KA2AA-KA9ZZ -- reserved for US Army-authorized amateur stations in Japan.
- KC4AAA-KC4AAF -- reserved for the National Science Foundation's use at the South Pole <http://antarcticsun.usap.gov/features/contentHandler.cfm?id=1701>.
- KC4USA-KC4USZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at their Antarctic bases.
- KG4AA-KG4ZZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at Guantanamo Bay). <http://members.visi.net/%7Everb/index.html>
- KL9KAA -- KL9KHZ -- reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.
- The 40 call signs having the first two letters AF, KF, NF or WF and the letters "EMA" following a numeral are available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FCC once issued call signs to hams who lived in the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. Even though these entities -- former United Nations Trust Territories -- now have their own sovereignty (and DXCC prefixes), the FCC will not issue call signs in the following blocks:

- KC6AA-KC6ZZ -- KC6 was two DXCC entities: The Eastern Caroline Islands and the Western Caroline Islands. The Eastern Carolines became the Federated States of Micronesia (V6) and the Western Carolines became the Republic of Palau (T8).
- KX6AA-KX6ZZ -- the former Marshall Islands, now the Republic of the Marshall Islands (V73).

You can find out more
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/index.htm?job=call_signs_3&id=amateur&page=
1#2&ref=>
on the FCC's Web site. Now you know!

==> SOLAR UPDATE

In for Tad "While the wonders of nature exploring
<http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/tosomeladies.html>" Cook, K7RA,
reports: Sunspot region 1029 disappeared after October 30, as it began
transiting the Sun's back side. Six days after it was gone, a new
region -- region 1030 -- appeared for several days. By November 8,
region 1030 had faded away and looked like other weak spots we've seen
over the past couple of years, except they appeared for one day with a
sunspot number of 11. Sunspot region 1030 ran for three days with
sunspot numbers of 15, 16 and 11. Then on November 9, the sunspot
region re-emerged, with sunspot numbers of 14, 13 and 11 through
November 11. While 1030 passes over the Sun's western limb, we can
still see sunspot region 1029 transiting the far side of our local
star, now approaching the eastern horizon. None of this observation
would be possible but for the STEREO mission
<http://stereo.gsfc.nasa.gov/>. Old region 1029 appears as a bright
area of magnetic disturbance, and we can't actually determine what the
sunspot number or the total area of the region might be, but it still
appears to have a large and robust magnetic signature. The 45 day Air
Force and NOAA Ap and flux forecast gives us some clue about the dates
it will emerge into view, and when it is most directly facing Earth.
Predicted solar flux is 72 for November 12-13, 73 on November 14-15, 74
on November 16-17, 75 on November 18-21 and 80 for November 22-24.
After that, the forecast shows it declining to 75, 72 and 70. This
suggests it might reach the most geoeffective position, that is, the
position where it is near the Sun's central meridian relative to the
Earth, around November 22-24. Conditions have been good, with continued
weak or missing solar wind, and very quiet geomagnetic indicators. Look
for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web
site on Friday, November 13. For more information concerning radio
propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation
page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad
Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' To Some Ladies
<http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/tosomeladies.html>.

==> + INTERNATIONAL: NORWEGIAN AMATEURS RECEIVE NEW PRIVILEGES

On November 6, radio amateurs in Norway were granted privileges
<http://www.lovdata.no/ltavd1/filer/sf-20091105-1340.html> on three new
bands, as well as primary status on the extended 40 meter band and a
frequency extension on 12 meters. According to IARU Vice President Ole
Garpestad, LA2RR, Norwegian amateurs received new secondary user
privileges on 60 meters (5.260-5.410 MHz), the 600 meter band (493-510
kHz) and in five blocks in the 4 meter (70 MHz) band. Amateur Radio
operators in Norway will also enjoy upgraded privileges on 40 meters,
moving from secondary to primary users between 7.100-7.200 MHz and 1000

W output. They have also received a new secondary allocation from 24.740-24.890 MHz in the 12 meter band, expanding upon Norway's existing primary allocation of 24.890-24.990 MHz. Garpestad said that "minor adjustments" were also made in the SHF (3-30 GHz) and EHF (30-300 GHz) portions of the band. "Congratulations to our Norwegian colleagues," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "The new domestic allocations in Norway are consistent with the present and future spectrum requirements for the Amateur Service as determined by the IARU Administrative Council. We hope that other administrations will consider taking similar steps."

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

<http://www.arrl.org/contests> This week, look for an NCCC Sprint on November 13. The Bill Windle QSO Party is November 14. The Worked All Europe DX Contest (RTTY), the Kentucky QSO Party, the JIDX Phone Contest is November 14-15 and the OK/OM DX Contest (CW) are November 14-15. The CQ-WE Contest (SSB, CW and Digital) is November 14-16. The Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is November 16 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is November 19. Next week, the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (SSB) <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html> is November 21-23. The Feld Hell Sprint is November 21. The LZ DX Contest is November 21-22 and the NA Collegiate ARC Championship (SSB) is November 21-23. The EU PSK63 QSO Party is November 22. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, November 22, 2009, for these online course sessions beginning on Friday, December 4, 2009: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

483. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1683 - November 13 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-13 00:49:49 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091112164622.02fba008@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1793
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1683 - November 13 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory and not necessarily for air.

OK, you all know why I am here. Its almost fall and all the bills from summertime have been mounting up. And, as usual, there is really not very much left in the treasury to pay them.

Its always this way. During June, July and August, people are spending more time away from home. You are out camping or at a ball game. Maybe it's a concert or traveling on vacation. We all do it, but most of you also find a local repeater to listen to this weekly newscast no matter where you go.

Now think of this. Our expenses to bring you the news are the same no matter if you are listening on the road, on an HT or from your hamshack at home. Eventually the bills have got to get paid and that time has come.

Now that everyone back at home and into their fall and winter life schedule, we ask that you take a few moments to send a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline support fund so that we can keep these newscasts coming your way. Making a contribution is only a mouse click away if you have Pay Pal. Just go to www.arnewsline.org and click on the button at the top of the page marked "Make Donation." Or you can send in a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Whichever way you choose, the all volunteer crew at the Amateur Radio Newsline will be eternally grateful.

Once again that's the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066. Or by Pay Pal at www.arnewsline.org

For the Support Fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ. Our newscast follows.

**

The following is a QST. A new record down-under as hams use red light off clouds to cross the Bass Strait. Also, Indonesia announces that it will launch a rescue radio ham satellite, Finland and Norway say yes to 4 meter operation and an unlicensed broadcaster tries a truly unusual defense after being fined. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1683 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW LED HAM RADIO LIGHT COMMUNICATIONS RECORD SET DOWN-UNDER

A new, non line-of-sight optical communications distance record of 288 km has been set down-under with a one-way transmission between two hams transmitting with Light Emitting Diodes. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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On the night of October 27th, Rex Moncur, VK7MO, and Joe Gelston,VK7JG, assisted by Paul Godden,VK7KPG, set a new one way non line-of-sight optical record of 288 km across Australia's Bass Strait. And they did this using red light scattered of the clouds.

VK7MO was on Mt. Liptrap in South Gippsland listening on his A-P-D based receiver. This while VK7JG and VK7KPG were on Mt. Horror in North-East V-K-7 transmitting with a 3 watt Luxeon LED transmitter. The signals from Mt. Horror were bounced off of some high altitude cirrus clouds estimated to have been at about 20,000 feet.

On the receiving end, the callsigns from Mt. Horror were decoded by VK7MO using a new program called Weak Signal Communicator. Weak Signal Communicator is actually a new front end for the Spectrum Lab audio analyzing application that has was recently created by David Smith,VK3HZ.

The experimenters also tried the WSJT decoding program developed a few years ago by Joe Taylor, K1JT. The sync signal was received at -30dB but unfortunately there were no decodes.

None the less. the possibility of bridging Bass Strait by optical communications using weak signal technology now been proven. A full report will be posted to the Radio and Electronics Association of Southern Tasmania website in the near future.

>From Los Angeles, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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Only the inquisitive minds of radio amateurs could make a feat like this possible and doing it with relatively inexpensive gear. The U-R-L for the REAST website is http://reast.asn.au/optical.php (VK7TW)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: INDIANOSIA TO LAUNCH RESCUE RADIO HAMSAT

Indonesia is planning a rescue radio ham satellite. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jerry Gaul, KE7GGV, reports:

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The Bernama dot com on line newspaper reports that the Indonesian Amateur Radio Organization called Orari and the Indonesian National Institute of Aeronautic and Space plan to launch the ham radio bird next year. But so far the president of the Orari has not revealed the satellite's size nor its orbital distance from Earth.

According to the website, the new ham radio bird will be used to expand the nations ham radio communication network to remote districts. It went on to note that the satellite will play a major role in linking land, sea and air communication for rescue radio operations.

The article also noted that ham radio operators from Orari had become the alternative communication tool. This, during disasters like the tsunami in Aceh and the recent earthquake in Padang.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jerry Gaule, KE7GGV, in Albany, Oregon, reporting.

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You can read the entire story on-line at http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsgeneral.php?idE31790 (Bernama.com)

**

RESTRUCTUTRING: FINLAND ALLOWS LIMITED 4 METER ACCESS

Amateurs in Finland, as well as the separate DXCC entities of Aaland Island and Market Reef, can now operate in 70.000 to 70.175 MHz and 70.225 to 70.300 MHz. But a report on the Four Meters web site by OZ2M says that 4 meter operation is not permitted within the 13 border municipalities. Also, that transmissions within 50 km of the Russian border are only permitted with the antenna's main lobe pointed away from that nation. A maximum transmission power is limited to 25 watts within 50 km of the Norwegian border will also be enforced.

But there is some good news on the 6 meter front. This as hams residing in Finnish coastal areas are now free for 50 MHz operations which were previously forbidden due to former Swedish Channel 2 television broadcasting. (OH1ZAA, via UKSMG Announcement)

**

RESTRUCTURING: NORWAY GIVES HAMS 4 METERS

And Norway has joined Finland in giving its radio amateurs limited access to 70 MHz operation. As of November 5th hams in Norway plus those on Svalbard, Bear Island, Jan Mayen, Bouvet Island, Peter I Island and in the Norwegian land areas on Antarctica can run up to 100 watts in five small subbands on the 4 meter band.

But Norway's restructuring of its hamband allocations does not end there. In addition to the new 70 MHz allocation Norwegian radio amateurs have also gained new bands at 500 kHz and 5.2 MHz as well as a

150 kHz. They have also been granted an extension to the 24 MHz band

In addition to 135.7 to 137.8 kHz and 7.1 to 7.2 MHz, Norwegian amateurs can now use 493 to 510 kHz on secondary basis at 100 watts using Morse only. Also added were allocations at 5 dot 260 to 5dot 410 MHz on secondary basis and 24 dot 740 to 24 dot 890 MHz, also on secondary basis.

The complete Norwegian Amateur Radio Regulations in Google translated English are at tinyurl.com/NorwayRadioRegs. (Southgate)

**

AWARD CONFLICT: C91VM QSL 'S FOR RECENT IOTA REJECTED

Hams planning to claim Islands on the Air credit for October 2009 contacts with C91VM are being told that these three operations will not be accepted for IOTA accreditation. This, because of the operator's current published QSL card policy.

According to G3KMA the operator of the expeditions has been notified that a policy change must be made that states that the request of 5 dollars in U-S currency is not obligatory. Also, IOTA award sponsors want a promise that cards sent direct to C91VM with sufficient return postage will be answered direct and in a timely fashion.

According to the November 7th release, a prompt amendment to this QSL policy notice as posted on QRZ.com is required if accreditation is to be reconsidered. (G3KMA)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the South Coast Amateur Radio Club repeater serving Los Angeles from Palos Verdes California.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: I.T. HAM SPEARHEADS RESCUE RADIO TECHNOLOGY

An interesting article in Computerworld Magazine is certain to get some in the field of Information Technology thinking seriously about amateur radio. The title is ï¿½Want to bone up on wireless tech? Try ham radio' and Jim Linton, VK3PC, has the story behind the story:

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The article centers on John Hays K7VE, an IT Manager in Washington who devotes most of his spare time to help develop a communications system designed to integrate portable two-way radios with the global telephone

network. He hopes to create a failure-proof voice communications infrastructure that can immediately connect first responders with the outside world, even when their own mobile cell phones are put out of service during an emergency.

The article points out that being a radio amateur he has access to abundant spectrum resources in which to engage his passion for research and wireless experimentation. John K7VE attributes his ability to engage in such research would not be possible without being part of the amateur radio community.

The article quotes him saying: ï¿½For IT professionals, ham radio can foster skills that are translatable into real-world wireless and wired networking applications.'

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

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The article includes information about ham licensing and a few sample theory test questions. A link to it can be found at http://tinyurl.com/ComputerWorldHamRadio) (WIA News)

**

RESCUE RADIO: W6FOG SOON BACK OUT TO SEA

Hams following the news about Neil Hays, W6FOG, sailing trip will be pleased to hear he has recovered and plans to be back out to sea soon.

As of November 2nd, Neil had survived very bad weather and high seas along with hypothermia. According to reports the sea was so heavy his tow line to the Coast Guard cutter broke three times during the rescue.

Late word is that once back on the water his plans are to travel along the west coast to the Panama Canal and then through it into the Caribbean. According to his home page on QRZ dot com. W6FOGF hopes to contact over 2000 gridsquares using the ham radio satellites during the voyage. He will also be on H-F at 14.280, 7.280 and 3.980 MHz, The H-F frequencies will be monitored 24 hours a day. (Southgate)

**

RADIO LAW: CONDO RESIDENTS WIN DECLATORY RULING TO KEEP TV ANTENNA

In an October 30th ruling, the FCC granted Constance and Daniel Lane of Palantine, Illinois a Declatory Ruling permitting them to put up a rooftop TV antenna. This, after the board of their homeowners association told them they could not do so. Amateur Radio Newsline's Frank Haas, KB4T, has the details:

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Constance and Daniel Lane had installed a television antenna on the roof of their townhome. In their petition to the FCC they had sated

that they own the deeded townhome with exclusive use of their roof .

Their homeowners association does not dispute this assertion. However, the association's rules require that antennas must be installed in the attic of a townhome and any deviation from this requirement must be approved by the Board of Directors.

But an exception in this rule exists where an owner cannot get an usable signal with an antenna in the attic. The Lane's allege that they cannot get an acceptable quality air signal in their attic and that therefore they have installed a roof mounted antenna.

In their petition to the FCC the Lane's stated that the Association was imposing continuing fines with respect to this installation. Because of this they requested the Commission to prohibit the association from enforcing its rule. The homeowners association was aware that the Lanes had taken the matter to the FCC but never filed any response.

In granting the Lane's petition the FCC weighed heavily on its own Over-the-Air Reception Devices Rule. This is the 1996 law which prohibits governmental and private restrictions that impair the ability of antenna users to install, maintain, or use over-the-air reception devices. It applies to satellite antennas that are one meter or less in diameter and, as in the Lane's case, to antennas designed to receive over the air television broadcast signals.

In granting the Lane's the request the FCC noted that by declining to oppose the petition, the homeowners association has failed to carry its burden. It therefore concluded that the Lane's antenna installation on their roof is permissible under the Commission's Rule as well as the homeowners association's rules.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Frank Haas, KB4T, in Holly Hill, Florida.

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At airtime its unknown if the homeowners association plans to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

RADIO LAW: PHILADELPHIA CELL BAN COULD IMPACT MOBILE HAMS

Operating a two-way radio mobile in Philadelphia may cost you $75 a pop beginning December 1st. This, thanks to a new cell phone law about to fully take effect in that city.

While the purpose of the law is to discourage the use of cell phones while driving there is a clause which prohibits the use of a wireless communication device for voice communication while operating a motor vehicle on any Philadelphia street. Hands free operation is permitted.

An article in the Philadelphia Inquirer quotes a 9th District Police Officer saying there are some exceptions to the new law. These are to call the 911 emergency line or while using a two-way radio to conduct official business for the city, state, or federal government. Otherwise the law says to pull over and put the car in park or neutral before making a call.

Local hams have been in touch with ARRL Volunteer Counsel to get their opinion of the bill. More information can be found in the Holmesburg Amateur Radio Club November newsletter at www dot harcnet dor org. Updates on the how this new law will affect on ham radio will be posted there as well. (WA3PZO)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: PANASONIC TO BUY SANYO

Panasonic Corp. will make formal its takeover bid for rival Sanyo Electric. This, as part of a move by Japan's largest consumer electronics company to transform itself into a green energy supplier as well.

Panasonic says that it has received sufficient assurance from regulators around the world to proceed with the $4.45 billion deal. If approved it would place Panasonic a strong position in the solar panel, fuel cell and rechargeable battery areas. All three are important to the future of both broadband and radio communications advancement. (Shoptalk)

**

HOLIDAY HAM RADIO: OH9SCL FROM SANTA CLAUS LAND

Ham radio will again be active from Santa Clause Land in the arctic Circle. This as station OH9SCL will takes to the holiday airwaves during the month of December. Plans are to have the station operational on 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and the digital modes. QSL's go via OH9UV. (Via e-mail)

**

HOLIDAY HAM RADIO: OPERATION SANTA CLAUS INVITE

And speaking about the upcoming ham radio holiday season, this note to those clubs and groups planning an on-the-air Operation Santa Claus. The event aimed at bringing some of the holiday joy to hospitalized youngsters.

For those not aware, Operation Santa Claus is a helping hand event begun by April Mell, WA6OPS, more than two decades ago. This, when she was an Occupational Therapist at a hospital in Orange County, California. Being an active radio amateur she came up with the idea of using ham radio to let hospitalized youngsters chat for a moment with the man with the white beard wearing the red suit. Usually that Santa is a ham somewhere on the hospital premises who has both a love of

children and that great Santa laugh.

Anyhow, it was only a few short years before her Operation Santa Claus idea was being copied by radio clubs nationwide and eventually worldwide. For some clubs, it has become an annual way for them to provide a very special service to their community.

If you or your group are planning an Operation Santa Clause event this holiday season, please let us know the date, time and the hospital that you will be serving. Also tell us who will be your Santa and whom his radio equipped helpers will be so that they can be given the recognition that they deserve. If you do this, then we will do our best to get that information out to the rest of the world-wide ham radio community. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

HAM HAPPENINGS" HAM RADIO UNIVERSITY 2010 IN NY ON JANUARY 10th

The eleventh annual Ham Radio University held in conjunction with the ARRL New York City/Long Island ARRL Section Convention on Sunday, January 10, 2010. The venue will be Briarcliffe College in Bethpage, New York.

For those not aware, Ham Radio University is a day to learn and experience the many aspects of amateur radio. The theme this year is Digital Communications and so far more than fifteen seminars are already scheduled. There will also be a VE session for those who would like to take an FCC exam and Special Event Station W2V set up and operational on HF.

Ham Radio University 2010 is sponsored this year by the Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club and is a cooperative effort between over twenty clubs and organizations in the New York City- Long Island area. More information is on-line at www.HamRadioUniversity.org (K2DO)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: FLYING TO THE HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST WILL BE EXPENSIVE IN 2010

If you are planning to fly to next summers Huntsville Hamferst, you had best start saving for the trip right now. This is because New federal statistics show Huntsville has the nation's most expensive airplane ticket to purchase from anywhere.

A report from the Bureau of Transportation Statistics shows the average domestic airfare for the north Alabama city cost $471 in the second quarter of this year. That's $68 higher than the second-place city, Grand Rapids, Mich. Atlantic City, New Jersey, had the lowest average cost for an airplane ticket, at $185.

None of the prices include extra charges like bag fees. The statistics are for one-way and round-trip tickets. (Online Travler)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

WORLDBEAT: UK GETS ITS FIRST 6 TO 10 METER REPEATER

Turning to news from across the Atlantic, word that the Wessex Repeater Group in the United Kingdom has announced that telecommunications regulator Ofcom has approved for immediate operation the UK's first 6 to 10 meter cross-band repeater. GB3WX will be co-sited with the 2m voice repeater GB3JB in South Wiltshire. The system, when not being used as a repeater, will transmit a beacon signal enabling those interested in propagation to directly compare signals between 6 and 10 meters. This is because both the 10 meter and 6 meter radios will transmit with the same ERP using the same dual-band omni-directional antenna system, and enabling direct comparisons to be made. More is on-line at the group's web site: http://twxrg.web.googlepages.com/home (GB2RS)

**

WORLDBEAT: EUROPE HAS NEW PC FOR THE ELDERLY

A new desktop PC aimed at people aged over 60 who are unfamiliar with Personal Computers and the internet has been unveiled in the United Kingdom. Called Simplicity, the simplified desktop has only six buttons directing users to basic tasks such as e-mail and chat.

The Simplicity computer has no log-in screen when it starts up, contains no drop-down menus and comes pre-loaded with 17 video tutorials. The operating system is a version of Linux that can be customized by users.

So far the SimplicITy computer system is only available in the Europe. According to the BBC story introducing it, more than 6 million people in the UK over the age of 65 have never used the internet, according to British government figures. (ScienceOnLine)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AMSAT - NA CREATES STUDENT MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

AMSAT North America now has a new category of membership aimed at the younger set. During the November 3rd board meeting a motion to add a student membership category was unanimously approved. The student membership will cost one half of the current membership.

The approved motion reads in part that to expand its educational outreach efforts, AMSAT-North America is establishing a student category of membership. The yearly dues will be half the standard applicable rate, and shall be available to all students in primary and secondary schools. Also, post-secondary school students enrolled in classes at least half of the time will also be eligible for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this membership category. Any student membership application should indicate the school being attended, the course of study and the expected graduation date. (ANS)

**

ON THE AIR: TUBE / VALVE QRP OPERATING DAY NOVEMBER 15

On the air, word that Tube or Valve Radio QRP Day takes place on Sunday November 15 from 1600 until 2359 UTC. Originated in the United Kingdom, the basic idea is to communicate using tube or valve based equipment that was popular a generation ago.

Tube or Valve Radio QRP Day limits itself to a power level of 5 watts or less, usually using separate receivers and transmitters. However planners note that vintage higher power rigs throttled back to 5 watts or below are fine.

This event is not a contest. Rather this is a celebration of ham radio in days gone by,. As such, its planners suggest that those taking part try and send some slow CW. They add that if you are a bit shaky to have the hot shot stations slow down for you.

There is one warning we want to pass along to those not familiar with tube or valve based radio gear. All of it uses voltages that can harm or even kill you if you come in contact with it. If you have never played with this type of equipment, please at least partner with someone who has and is aware of the safety precautions that must be taken.

Lastly, if you do decide to take part, please send any reports and photographs by e-mail to g3vtt at aol dot com before November 20th. More on this event is on-line at www.gqrp.com (G3VTT)

**

DX

In DX, word that DL7DF and some of his friends will operate from Phu Quoc Island through November 17th. Two stations are operational. One is concentrating on CW and SSB with the other operating RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. QSL via DL7DF either direct or via the DL QSL Bureau.

An international team is heading to Samoa and will be operating portable 5W through November 17th. Their announced plans are to have two stations including amplifiers for all-band activity. QSL as directed on the air.

KL7JR reports that plans are underway for the activation of Jacquot Island before and during ARRL's December 11th to the 13th Ten Meter Contest. Listen out for VY1RST to concentrate on 10 meters for the contest and 14.260 for non-contest activities. QSL via KL7JR at his callbook address.

AA7JV, and HA7RY are reportedly active as TX3A from the Chesterfield Islands. They are expected to be there for at least another two weeks with priorities given to operating on 160, 80 and 40 meters. They will also try to make time the contacts on the higher bands as time permits. Updates can be found at www.tx3a.com. QSLs via the bureau or direct. E-QSL and Logbook to the World are also being accepted.

EI6DX, will be operational from Somone Senegal through November 16th. He plans to focus on the lowbands and CW. QSL via bureau or direct to RX3RC.

Lastly, T30KI and Mike,T30IW are expected to show up from Abatao Islet on the Tarawa atoll working CW and SSB on 60 through 6 meters/ This, from November 10th to the 16th. QSLs for both calls go via N1EMC.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

ENFORCEMENT: TEXAS REALLY IS A STATE AND YOU NEED AN FCC LICENSE TO BROADCAST THERE

And finally this week an enforcement story with a novel twist. This as an unlicensed broadcaster who tried to use the United States Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act as his reason not to have an FCC license is now facing a $10,000 fine. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP, has the details:

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By way of background, on February 22nd 2007, the Dallas FCC Office issued a Notice of Unlicensed Operation to Raymond Frank. It warned him that the radio transmissions on 100.1 MHz from his residence were not authorized by the Commission. The letter also outlined the possible penalties for continued unlicensed operation. On March 5th 2007, the Dallas Office received a reply from Mr. Frank stating that the transmissions had ceased.

But the matter did not end there. On July 22nd 2009, in response to a complaint about an unlicensed radio station in the Austin area, FCC agents traced the signal to Frank's home. So on August 13th 2009, the Houston FCC Office issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture to Frank in the amount of $10,000 for the apparent willful and repeated violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act.

Raymond Frank submitted his responses to the proposed fine that seemed to be based on a law called the United States Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. This is the code that lets foreign delegates to the United States get away with such things as double-parking and then

ignoring the ticket on their car. But it seems as if Raymond Frank was trying to invoke it in his defense whether he knew the law applied or not. Here's why:

In his response to the proposed fine, Frank claimed that the Commission had no jurisdiction over the matter. He asserted that as a citizen of the Republic of Texas, he was not subject to the laws of the United States or the Commission's Rules. Specifically, he claimed that the Commission lacks jurisdiction over his actions, because he operated a radio station solely within the boundaries of the state of Texas. He also claimed that the Commission's licensing policies violate the First Amendment of the constitution.

As you might expect, the FCC did not buy his defense. In affirming the fine the FCC noted that Section 301 of the Communications Act explicitly sets forth the Commission's jurisdiction over all radio transmissions, both interstate and intrastate. It also states that no person shall use or operate any apparatus for the transmission of energy or communications or signals by radio from one place in any state to another place in the same state, or from one place within a state to another state without a license. Thus, contrary to Raymond Frank's assertion, the Commission does indeed have full jurisdiction over the use of radio transmitting equipment within the state of Texas and it was invoking that jurisdiction in his case.

The FCC also noted that the U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly held that there is no constitutional right to use radio facilities without a license. It said that issuing a forfeiture for operating a radio station without a license simply represents the enforcement of the Communications Act, and as such it is not some abridgment of Mr. Frank's Constitutional rights.

In summary, the FCC said that it had examined Mr. Frank's response to the proposed fine in conjunction with the Forfeiture Policy Statement. As a result of its review, the FCC said that it finds no basis for cancellation or reduction of the $10,000 fine proposed for this violation.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline. I'm Jim Hendershot, WA6VQP, in Grants Pass, Oregon.

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The bottom line: Whether or not Raymond Frank recognizes the authority or jurisdiction of the FCC does not matter. Right now he has only 30 days from the date the order was issued to pay up or to file a further appeal. (FCC)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson, KQ6FM in Reno, Nevada, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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484. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-15 07:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1258268401@panix.com>
Source record: 1794
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.10 2009/05/27 12:04:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
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promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader
opinions in March of 2009:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt
it permanently if successful.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and
news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc.

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message)
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

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2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

Because rec.radio.amateur.moderated is a Usenet newsgroup, there are | implied or derived guidelines for participation that are drawn from the | above articles about overall Usenet culture and tradition. Two of these | implied or derived guidelines are encapsulated in two basic rules that | our moderation team uses to initially determine whether an article is | appropriate for our newsgroup. They are restated explicitly here for | clarification: |

Basic Rule #1: The article must be on-topic for amateur radio. A | rule-of-thumb that our moderation team applies is whether the article | mentions amateur radio, ham radio, some synonym for amateur or ham | radio, some technique or practice of amateur or ham radio including | closely related technical topics such as antennas or portable power, or | regulatory politics that directly affect amateur radio. This | rule-of-thumb is also applied to determine if an article in a thread has | drifted too far off-topic. For example, articles that have drifted into | general rants or monologues will probably be returned with a polite | request to rewrite to include a reasonable amateur radio connection or | angle. |

Basic Rule #2: The article must not have excessive spelling, grammar, or | logical argument errors affecting readability and understandability. | The moderation team understands that clear, understandable, technical or | expository writing is a skill that can only be perfected through a | lifetime of focused training and practice. Because the moderation team | does not want to hold submitters to a standard higher than what it can | achieve itself, nor disrupt the newsgroup and discourage submitters by | playing spelling or grammar police, it will only return for rewrite any | article that cannot be reasonably understood by multiple moderators. |

If it is necessary to return any article for a rewrite because the | moderators have determined that it does not meet Basic Rule #1 or #2, | please accept this constructive feedback in the manner in which it is | intended. The moderation team offers its assistance to help rewrite any | submitted article into a form that preserves its original intent and | meaning, but is also on-topic, as well as readable and understandable by | others. |

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which

itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such

fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The

moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management Board:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

485. The ARRL Letter for November 19, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-19 22:49:35 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091119224906.EB785B357E3@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1795
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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**********************************************
The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
**********************************************

November 19, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

ARRL Home Page <http://www.arrl.org/>ARRL Letter Archive
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

- + Advocacy: End in Sight for "Third Battle of Bull Run"?
- + Operating: NCVEC to Release New Technician Question Pool in January
- + Operating: SKYWARN Recognition Day Set for December 5
- Hints & Kinks : PL-259 Connector Tool for Coax Cables
- + Public Service: GAREC Returns to Region 2 for 2010
- The 2009 ARRL Spectrum Defense Campaign Needs Your Support
- Now You Know!: It's All Greek to Me
- Solar Update
- This Week on the Radio

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + ADVOCACY: END IN SIGHT FOR "THIRD BATTLE OF BULL RUN"?

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, once termed the battle
of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) in Manassas, Virginia as the "Third
Battle of Bull Run." While the war against harmful interference to
Amateur Radio via BPL is not yet over, the battle in Manassas might
soon be coming to an end.

In a Special Meeting on Monday, November 16 of the Manassas City
Council, the Council voted "To allow the [City of Manassas] Utility
Commission to make a recommendation to the [Manassas] City Manager as
part of the FY 2011 Budget regarding the decision to continue offering
Internet service; additionally, staff was instructed to discontinue all
marketing and advertising of Internet service." This motion passed 4-2.

At the meeting, Manassas Director of Utilities Michael Moon told the
Council that "it is not cost-effective to continue the internet service
on the Main.net BPL communication system as a stand-alone cost center"
and that the City "need[s] to make the decision for internet service in
the context of what communication system will be used for the City's
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AMI [Advanced Metering Infrastructure]." Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/19/11206/?nc=1>.

==> + OPERATING: NCVEC TO RELEASE NEW TECHNICIAN QUESTION POOL IN JANUARY

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) is due to release the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1, 2009; it will be released to the public in January 2010. Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes -- Technician, General and Amateur Extra -- is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/19/11203/?nc=1>.

==> + OPERATING: SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY SET FOR DECEMBER 5

The 11th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 5, 2009. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24 hour event. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/17/11199/?nc=1>.

==> HINTS & KINKS : PL-259 CONNECTOR TOOL FOR COAX CABLES

Tired of using pliers to screw on the PL-259 connectors when you are preparing cables? Pliers always seem to do some damage by the amount of force this task requires. I use an inexpensive 1/2 inch PVC female to male coupler. Simply use a step drill and ream out the female end (see the arrow in the photo). This works for most half inch coaxial cables. PL-259s do vary in diameter. Be sure to measure yours before you ream out the PVC adapter. It will not take a lot of reaming for the connector to fit snugly. The outer part of the PL-259 that fits into the connector is 0.55 inch diameter. This makes a secure fit. If you wear out the adapter, purchase another, as they are inexpensive. This works for me. -- 73, Paul Marsha, K4AVU, 200 Garden Trail Ln, Lexington, SC 29072-7341

==> + ARRL RECOGNIZES: DEADLINE LOOMING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE BILL LEONARD PROFESSIONAL MEDIA AWARD AND ARRL INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Did you see an article or news segment on Amateur Radio this past year in the papers, on TV, radio or a professional Web site? ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, reminds you that you can recognize the professional reporter's work by nominating them for the Bill Leonard Professional Media Award <http://www.arrl.org/pio/pro_media_award.html>. "Time is running out," he warns. "Nominations for this prestigious award -- which conveys an

engraved plaque and a donation of $250 to be made in their names to the charity of their choice -- must be sent in to the League no later than December 11." Find out more about the Bill Leonard Professional Media Award here <http://www.arrl.org/pio/pro_media_award.html>.

Nominations are also open for the 2009 ARRL International Humanitarian Award <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/awards/humanitarian.html>. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through Amateur Radio. The League established the annual prize to recognize Amateur Radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster. All nominations and supporting materials for the 2009 ARRL International Humanitarian Award must be submitted in writing no later than December 31, 2009. Read more about the ARRL International Humanitarian Award here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/28/11098/?nc=1>.

==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: GAREC RETURNS TO REGION 2 FOR 2010

The 2010 Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC <http://www.rientola.fi/oh3ag/garec/>) will take place October 11-12 on the Dutch island of Curacao in the Caribbean. The theme of the conference will be Learning through Practicing.

According to GAREC 2010 Organizing Committee Chairman Seppo Sisatto, PhD, OH1VR, GAREC's mission is two-fold: To help Amateur Radio operators be better prepared for emergency communications and to create emergency communications exercises at both the national and international levels. Exchanging information and experiences among all Amateur Radio operators and groups that are interested in emergency communications helps to promote GAREC's vision of having regular worldwide cooperation and understanding between governments and the Amateur Radio Service in the field of emergency communications.

GAREC 2010 is organized in cooperation with the Dutch Amateur Radio Emergency Service (DARES <http://www.dares.nl/>) and Club for Experimental Radio Examination Netherland Antilles (VERONA <http://www.muurkrant.nl/verona/uk/index.html>). Sisatto said that details on the upcoming conference will be announced as they become available.

==> THE 2009 ARRL SPECTRUM DEFENSE CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

<https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/> ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, reports that the ARRL has raised $126,828 toward the goal $310,000 for the 2009 Spectrum Defense Fund <http://www.arrl.org/defense>. "The messages I receive from the ARRL members and hams who contribute to this much needed fund are heartening," she said, "expressing appreciation for all the work ARRL does for the Amateur Radio community to protect our frequencies. And we can all be proud of the successes that have come from the work of ARRL

leadership -- the Board and staff here at HQ. But there is always more to do." Hobart said that year after year, ARRL members tell her that the League's representation of radio operators -- both in Washington and on the international stage -- is one of, if not the most important activities that the ARRL does. "The cost of that representation at meetings in Washington, at IARU gatherings and working party meetings to prepare for world telecommunications conferences is the key to the continued success of our defense efforts," she said. "Spectrum Defense is one of those areas that is not covered completely by member dues. So we ask ARRL members to do what they can to help cover those expenses." Amateurs wishing to make a contribution may do so easily online <http://www.arrl.org/defense>, via postal mail or by calling the ARRL Development Office at (860) 594-0397.

==> NOW YOU KNOW!: IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME

Ask any high school physics student and they'll tell you that electrons govern pretty much everything we do. We call electrons in motion an electrical current, and those radio waves that we hams are so fond of are the result of high frequency electrons traveling in our antenna conductors. Think of a 40 meter wave as an accidental tourist who wants to go somewhere (somewhere nice and warm, maybe a rare DX station). But how to get there? It needs some mode of transport -- think of electrons as the transport providers.

We use our transmitters to move the electrons in our antennas to-and-fro to produce radio waves, hopefully to that rare DX destination. When the radio waves get there, they set electrons in another antenna in motion. That current -- electrons in motion -- is amplified and detected at the receiving location and a QSO is made.

But why do we call them electrons? The ancient Greeks noticed that amber attracted small objects when rubbed with fur; apart from lightning, this phenomenon is thought to be man's earliest known experience of electricity. Back in the year 1600, the English physician William Gilbert -- in his treatise De Magnete <http://rack1.ul.cs.cmu.edu/is/gilbert/> -- coined the New Latin <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Latin> term electricus to refer to this property of attracting small objects after being rubbed. Both electric and electricity are derived from the Latin Ã□Â□lectrum, which came from the Greek word Ã□Â®Ã□Â»Ã□ÂµÃ□ÂºÃ□Â□Ã□Â□Ã□Â¿Ã□Â½ (Ã□Â□lektron) for amber. Now you know!

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "Flutters in sun-beams <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/shell.html>" Cook, K7RA, reports: Sunspot activity seems to be growing steadily of late: Daily sunspot numbers for November 5-18 were 15, 16, 11, 0, 14, 13, 11, 11, 0, 0, 11, 12, 0 and 29. Sunspot 1029 made its trip around the Sun and has re-emerged as sunspot 1032. A new sunspot -- number 1033 -- has

come over the eastern limb of the Sun. This steady appearance of sunspots has raised the MUF over many paths, and 15 meters is beginning to open regularly. In the southern hemisphere -- which gets more solar radiation this time of year -- you can see a pronounced effect on the f0F2 reading around mid-day <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/ftpdir/lists/iono_day/Cocos_Is_iono.txt>. This is a measurement taken with an ionospheric sounder on Cocos-Keeling Islands in the Indian Ocean, 12.5 degrees South latitude and 96.8 degrees East longitude. The instrument sweeps a radio signal across the spectrum, beams straight up to the ionosphere overhead and measures the strength of the signal bouncing back to determine optimum frequency. You can see during mid-day f0F2 is going above 10 MHz. Another interesting tool to see varying MUF around the world updated every five minutes is here <http://www.spacew.com/www/realtime.php>. The contour lines show the MUF over that particular area. During the day recently, some areas over Africa were going above 30 MHz. Of course, this weekend is the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes Contest <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/12/11194/?nc=1>, and conditions are expected to be good for this domestic contest. There is a possibility of some disturbance from unsettled geomagnetic conditions, possibly peaking on Saturday. Predicted planetary A index for November 19-23 is 7, 10, 15, 9 and 6. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, November 19. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' On Receiving a Curious Shell, and a Copy of Verses, by the Same Ladies <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/shell.html>.

==> SILENT KEYS

+ Prolific Amateur Radio and SWL Author Harry Helms, W5HLH (ex-AA6FW) (SK)

After a long bout with cancer, Harry Helms, W5HLH (ex-AA6FW), passed away Sunday, November 15. He was 57. Notorious for his witticisms and geniality, Helms was known for his many books -- such as Shortwave Listening Guidebook: The Complete Guide to Hearing the World, All About Ham Radio, How to Tune the Secret Short Wave Spectrum and Handbook of Radio Communications Servicing and Maintenance -- and his monthly column "You Should Know: Interesting Thoughts and Ideas for Enjoying the Hobby" in Popular Communications. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/18/11201/?nc=1>.

QST Author George Badger, W6TC (SK)

George Badger, W6TC, of Portola Valley, California, passed away on Sunday, November 15. He was 84. Originally licensed in 1939 as W6RXW when he was 14, Badger was a member of the ARRL for 67 of his 69 year amateur career. After World War II service with the 89th Infantry Signal Company in Europe, he graduated from the University of

California with a degree in electrical engineering. Badger held seven patents on microwave tube and circuit design and was Marketing Director for EIMAC <http://www.cpii.com/division.cfm/9>, was President of Svetlana <http://www.svetlana-tubes.com/svetlana_main.swf> and consulted for CPII Econco <http://www.cpii.com/division.cfm/9>. Badger published many technical articles professionally and in the amateur press. First published in QST in 1981, Badger's most recent article, "The Pileup Buster," was published in October 2008; his next article, "Easy to Make Four-to-One Coreless Baluns," is scheduled to be published in a spring 2010 issue. Badger was a Fellow <http://radioclubofamerica.org/doc/Fellow%20Nomination%20form.pdf> in the Radio Club of America <http://www.radioclubofamerica.org/>. His Amateur Radio interests included building equipment, antennas and working DX. Badger held DXCC Top of Honor Roll (Mixed), DXCC Honor Roll (both Phone and CW), 5BDXCC (with endorsements on 160, 30, 17 and 12 meters), DXCC on all bands (160-10) and 5BWAZ. He also exceeded 2500 points on the DXCC Challenge. Contributions in memory of Badger can be made to the Stanford University Medical Center, Department of Immunology, 2700 Sand Hill Rd, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Funeral arrangements are pending.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGvRnqII0j8> This week, the ARRL Sweepstakes Contest (SSB) <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html> is November 21-23. The Feld Hell Sprint is November 21. The LZ DX Contest is November 21-22 and the NA Collegiate ARC Championship (SSB) is November 21-23. The EU PSK63 QSO Party is November 22. Next week, look for an NCCC Sprint on November 27. The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW) is November 28-29. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, December 27, 2009, for these online course sessions <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/> beginning on Friday, January 8, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

486. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1684 - November 20 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-20 07:47:52 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091119234314.0357fa58@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1796
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1684 - November 20 2009

The following is a closed circuit advisory and is not necessarily for air. Ladies and gentlemen Here's Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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Well, we have some good news and some not so good. The good news is that some of you responded and we are now only a month behind in paying our bills. The bad news is -- well -- that we are still a month behind in paying our bills and we need your help to get caught up to date.

With the holiday season approaching, I am going to ask you to remember to add the Amateur Radio Newsline to your gift list. The simple fact of the matter is that we can only bring you the news if we have the ongoing monies to do it. And it is you and only you that is the source of the funds that keep Amateur Radio Newsline coming your way.

Remember, Amateur Radio Newsline is a federal tax exempt 501(c)(3) not for profit corporation and your donations are tax deductible. Making a contribution is only a mouse click away if you have Pay Pal. Just go to www.arnewsline.org and click on the button at the top of the page marked "Make Donation." Or you can send in a donation to the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066.

Whichever way you choose, the all volunteer crew at the Amateur Radio Newsline will be eternally grateful.

Once again that's the Amateur Radio Newsline Support Fund, Post Office Box 660937, Arcadia California, 91066. Or by Pay Pal at www.arnewsline.org

Also, less we forget, best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours.

For the Support Fund, I'm Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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Thank you Andy. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1684 with a release date of Friday, November 20th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC's new chairman testifies before congress on distracted driving. Is congress looking at some sort of nationwide ban? Also, BPL to disappear in Manassas Virginia, 60 meters

comes to Trinadad and Tobago, a ham in India waits 13 years to get his license and radio controlled robots to hold their own Olympic like games. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1684 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO LAW: FCC CHAIRMAN TESTIFIES ON DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distracting driving has become a major issue in congress and could eventually impact on all communications to and from vehicles including ham and CB radio. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in our newsroom with more.

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The hot button issue of distracted driving was the reason that FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski was recently summoned to Capitol Hill to testify before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. This to explain where the agency he heads up could fit in if the nations legislative body eventually takes action to curb the rising tide of accidents and deaths being blamed on driving distractions such as talking on cellphones and texting while in motion.

While his October 28th testimony before the subcommittee hearing on Combating Distracted Driving never mentioned ham radio, CB or any other type of vehicular two way system, he did agree with that distracted driving endangers life and property and the current levels of injury and loss are unacceptable. He called an urgent problem that simply must be addressed.

But Genachowski said that he does not believe there is a single solution to this challenge. He said that the responsibility lies with individuals and companies in the wireless space as well as government.

He stated his belief that all individuals should take personal responsibility. Adults should drive responsibly, and families and friends should encourage each other and help each other drive responsibly. He believes that drivers of all ages should refrain from text messaging while driving. He goes so far as to say that the nation should develop a cultural norm that driving while texting is totally unacceptable.

Genachowski said that the FCC also has a role to play by helping to educate the public and supporting innovative problem-solving. He said that education is vital to any comprehensive plan addressing distracted driving.

Most important to those who operate two-way radio from their vehicles was Genachowski statement that mobile communications can be a life-saver by improving emergency response by, for example, providing stranded motorists with immediate means to reach help and by giving

first responders instant access to 21st century communications networks.

Genachowski also noted that government at all levels has a role to play in ending the distracted driving problem. On the Federal level he applaud the Department of Transportation for leading an impressive, coordinated effort to increase public awareness of the dangers of distracted driving. He also said that because the FCC licenses and regulates mobile services and approves devices for use in the consumer marketplace, the agency can potentially play a useful role in enabling technology and encouraging the development of marketplace solutions.

Obviously there is a lot more to come as Federal legislators mull over the distracted driving issue. It also means that hams and other mobile two-way radio users will need to keep an eye on Congress in the coming months.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline Im Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in los Angeles.

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The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported in 2008 that driver distraction in general is the cause of 16% of all fatal crashes and 21% of crashes resulting in an injury. And according to AAA, nearly 50% of teens admit to texting while driving even though laws in some states forbid it. More is on-line at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294326A1.txt (FCC, published reports)

**

RADIO RULES: FCC HOLDING WORKSHOP ON DISTRACTED DRIVERS

In a related development, word that the FCC is holding a holding a staff workshop on distracted driving as this newscast goes to air.

The November 20th workshop comes as the result of Chairman Julius Genachowski recent pledge to Congress that the FCC would gather data on exactly what drivers do in their vehicles. Also. To explore technology innovations and applications that may eliminate or significantly reduce the problem of distracted driving.

The commission would then be tasked with developing ways to educate the public about such dangerous behavior. The one thing that you will not see come out of this meeting is proposed rules to ban any mobile electronics that could distract drivers. Such regulation is outside of the preview of the Commission and would require congressional legislation

The workshop was to have been held at FCC's Washington headquarters and is open to the public. Its unknown if non-cellular mobile two way radio was on the agenda. (FCC)

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THE BPL WAR: MANASSAS VA TO PULL THE PLUG ON BPL

The Manassas City Council is saying goodbye to BPL. Inside Northern Virginia reports that the council is in the process of deciding whether to abandon its broadband over power line project now, or to let it die at the end of the city's fiscal year.

BPL was Manassas' attempt to bring the Internet into the homes of every resident by providing low-cost broadband service. Subscribers were told that they could access the Internet through the regular electrical outlets, but for a number of reasons it never caught on with the public. First, the connection proved to be slower than cable or DSL. It was expensive to maintain and caused massive reception interference to those using the spectrum it shared. This included the Manassas ham radio community which was highly vocal in its opposition.

The end result was that the project only garnered about 670 subscribers while costing the city hundreds of thousands of dollars in ongoing maintenance. It also faced a strong challenge from Comcast cable which claims the potential to serve the entire city and Verizon which has rapidly been expanding its FIOS service in the Manassas area. And now like a bad dream it will shortly be fading away. (InsideNoVa.com)

**

RESTRUCTURING: 60 METER OPERATION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago may by now be permitting Amateur Radio operation in a 200 kHz segment of the 60 meter band. In a posting to the Digital Radio Yahoo group Julian Dedier, 9Z4FZ, notes that his license permits operation from 5.250 to 5.450 MHz with 1.5 kilowatt maximum power output. While amateur radio operation in this band would be a welcome development although as yet no reference to the allocation could be found in the frequency allocation table issued by the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago. (Southgate)

**

RESTRUCTURING: INDIA EXPECTED TO EXPAND 40 METER HAM BAND

Hams in India will soon have access to the spectrum from 7 point 0 to 7 point 1 MHz. This according to an e-mail being circulated by VU2JOS that says positive information coming from the official sources indicate that Indian amateur radio operators are being allocated an additional spectrum of 100 KHz on the 40 meter band.

According to the VU2JOS note, this is in line with the recommendations at WRC-2007. Since then shortwave broadcasters in India have shifted their transmitting frequencies beyond 7 point 2 KHz. In fact, in the region only 7 dot 190 MHz is still in use by the Srilanka Broadcasting Corporation.

VU2JOS says that an official notification of the 40 meter expansion is likely to be released soon. He also says that this is not the first time that hams in his nation have had access to this spectrum, He notes that Indian amateur radio operators were allowed to operate between 7 to 7 point 1 MHz, with the allowance of additional spectrum. (VU2MYH)

**

RADIO DEDICATION: VU2DWA- 13 YEARS FROM EXAM TO LICENSE

And here's the story an amateur radio applicant in India has received his license. What makes this interesting is that it only took some 13 years to reach him, Heres the story as we know it.

Back in 1996 Digvijayam Paricharla passed that nations amateur service exam. It normally would have taken a few months for him to have received his license and permit to operate, but months pass and then years but still no license.

After waiting and waiting, he finally contacted India's National Institute of Amateur Radio which in turn took up his cause. He says that through the dedication of VU2IPA, VU2RBI, VU2RDM, VU3ATK and several others, his dream of becoming a licensed radio amateur was realized, On October 28th he was finally issued the callsign VU2DWA and announced that he planned to celebrate by attending the now concluded Bangalor Hamfest.

VU2DWA sent out an e-mail telling the world that he is very grateful to everyone in the National Institute of Amateur Radio for their helping to champion his cause. And before you ask, nobody has said why it took all these years for his license to be issued. (VU Forum via W7VOA)

**

BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WAFAR repeater serving the "Windy City" of Chicago, Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO CRIME: RAC E-MAIL ALIAS USED IN PHISHING ATTEMPT

In the world of cyberspace the word phishing means to impersonate someone to try to illegally obtain information. Now, Radio Amateurs of Canada says that its e-mail domain of at RAC dot CA is being used in an attempt by crooks to obtain personal information from members. Norm Seeley, KI7UP, reports:

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According to Radio Amateurs of Canada several messages have been received from users of the at rac dot ca e-mail alias system who have received e-mails purporting to be from RAC. These notes claim that maintenance was to be performed on the e-mail system and that certain information was requested to be sent to the sender of the message.

But says Radio Amateurs of Canada, these messages were not generated by anyone at that group. Rather they are a phishing expedition by someone likely involved in the crime of identity theft. It says that it would never send an e-mail that asks for such information as usernames and passwords. Radio Amateurs of Canada says to please ignore them and not to respond.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona, reporting

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The bottom line: Anytime you get an e-mail of which you are even the least suspicious of, hit the delete key. Both you, your bank account and your computer will be glad that you did. (RAC)

**

HAM RADIO TESTING: NEW TECHNICIAN QUESTION POOL TO BE RELEASED

The Question Pool Committee of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators is due to release the new Technician class question pool to the 14 VECs on December 1st. It will then be released to the public in January 2010.

Each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes is reviewed on a four-year rotation. This new Technician class pool will become effective on July 1, 2010. (NCVEC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: COMMERCIAL FM ASKS FOR FM FRECEIVERS IN CELLPHONES

The U.S. commercial radio industry is pressing the Federal Communications Commission to persuade wireless carriers to include FM radio in cell phones. In their ex parte filing, radio executives stress the enhanced public safety benefits of including FM tuners in wireless handsets.

The industry leaders argue that technical obstacles to incorporating FM chips in mobile handsets largely have been overcome, that the chips cost about $1 or less and internal FM antennas are already included in at least 17 models of handsets in the United States. More than 30% of cell phones worldwide include FM and the battery drain is minimal from the FM radio circuitry.

The executives also noted that the cellular industry is developing an emergency warning system based on text messaging with broadcast SMS technology. But the radio leaders say this kind of system is expensive

and deployment is years away. (RW)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: HAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOT HONOLULU MARATHON

Ham Radio volunteers are needed to assist at the 2009 Honolulu Marathon. The event is slated for Sunday, December 13th starting at 5 a.m. local time.

The marathon begins and ends at Kapiolani Park with volunteer communicators required at many locations along the route. If you can assist please contact Contact Greg, NH6ZS, by e-mail him at honu1 at juno dot com. (KH6QX)

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RADIO LAW: SAFE HARBOUR WILL CONTINUE

The FCC will continue to restrict the broadcast of material that it believes to be to risquï¿½ for children's eyes and ears. Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, has the details:

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Audio report only. Hear it in our MP3 file downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

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While the concept of time channeling has seen more than one direct or indirect legal challenge, so far the courts have maintained that that the concept is both constitutional and within the purview of the FCC to enforce. (RW)

**

ENFORCEMENT: SAN FRANCISCO INLICENSED STATION ISSUED $10000 NAL

The owner of an unlicensed broadcast station in the San Francisco Bay area has taken it off the air. This after being hit with a proposed $10,000 fine from the FCC in August.

The Notice of Apparent Liability was issued to Daniel Roberts, the founder of unlicensed broadcast station Pirate Cat Radio. Now, the station website says the proposed fine effectively ends Pirate Cat Radio's thirteen-year run as one of the Bay Area's most consistent voices of protest against what it calls corporate-run media monopolies.

Pirate Cat Radio will continue as an Internet-only station and says that the majority of its listeners were already tuning in online or via podcasts. No word on whether or not Roberts will appeal the proposed fine. (Radio)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: SKYWARN RECOGNITION DAY DECEMBER 5TH

The 11th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day will take place on Saturday, December 5th. Co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service SKYWARN Recognition Day is a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe.

According to SKYWARN Recognition Day Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, radio amateurs can visit their local participating National Weather Service office. There, working as a team thy will contact other hams around the world throughout the 24 hour event.

More information about SKYWARN Recognition Day is on line at the American Radio Relay Leagues' website at www.arrl.org. (ARRL)

**

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 2010 SOUTHEASTERN VHF SOCIETY CONFERENCE

A "Call for Papers" to be presented at the 14th Annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference has gone out to the world-wide ham radio community. This 2010 conference will take place on April 23rd and 24th, at Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky and the sponsor is calling for the submission of papers and presentations for the to be presented at that gathering.

Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF and Microwave weak signal amateur radio. Some suggested areas of interest include transmitter, receiver or transverter design, antenna design, low noise pre-amplification techniques. On the operational side topics might include DXpeditions, Rovers, EME operation, use of digital modes and exploring such items as Sporadic E propagation, Meteor Scatter and Troposphere Ducting.

In general papers and presentations on non weak signal related topics such as FM, repeaters and packet will not be accepted but exceptions may be made if the topic is related to weak signal. For example, a paper or presentation on the use of APRS to track rovers during contests would be considered.

The deadline for the submission of papers and presentations is February 5, 2010. Send all questions, comments and submissions to the program chair, Robin Midgett K4IDC. You can reach him at K4IDC (at) comcast (dot) net.

For further information about the conference please go to www dot svhfs dot org on the World Wide Web. (K4IDC)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: AA2EJ AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Some names in the news. First up is George Smith, AA2EJ, who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for the invention of an imaging

semiconductor circuit known as the CCD sensor. Smith shares the prize with two other researchers. They are Charles Kao, of Standard Telecommunication Laboratories and Willard Boyle, of Bell Laboratories. (ARRL, other published news reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W8WDY SELECTED FOR 2009 DARA PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

And Dayton Amateur Radio Association president Steve Coy, K8UD, has named to George Potor, W8DWY, as recipient of the 2009 DARA Presidential Award. In making the announcement Coy said that Potor has contributed every year for the past several years in what we now know as Management Information Systems. He has created several computer programs including, Regis, Stubs and many others, including the program that shows the winning ticket numbers during Hamvention. Coy says that Potor's work has set the foundation for future programs, that includes Boothtracker which was first utilized for Hamvention this past year. (DARA)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VK5ZAI FINALIST IN THE SENIOR AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

An ham radio operator is a finalist in the Senior Australian of the Year competition. This as the South Australian Committee selects Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI as one of the four South Australia finalists.

VK5ZAI was recognized for nomination based on his volunteerism as one of the satellite Earth stations for the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station program. Hutchison was also acknowledged for his work as Australian ARISS Coordinator and organizing the link ups for schools to contact the amateurs on the International Space Station, stimulating the interest of young people in science and technology.

The Australian of the Year Awards is a program of the National Australia Day Council, with state and territory selection committees selecting four finalists in each category, including the Senior Australian of the Year. The awards recognize the individual's contribution to their community.

(DO NOT READ: The full story, with pictures, is on the WIA website at: http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2009/20091116-1/index.php) (WIA)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: HARRY HELMS, W5HLH - S.K.

Another sad changing of the guard in amateur radio. This as we learn of the passing of noted personal radio author Harry Helms, W5HLH, following a long fight against Cancer.

Helms, the former AA6FW, was best known for his many hobby radio related books including the Handbook of Radio Communications Servicing and Maintenance, the Handbook of Home Security Electronics, the Shortwave Listening Guidebook and The Complete Guide to Hearing the World. He was also the author of the book All About Ham Radio and had been a monthly contributor to Popular Communications magazine.

Helms was only age 57 when he succumbed to the disease at a hospice facility not far from his home in Fort Mill, South Carolina. In his last blog entry dated August 28th, he noted that he was now living just a few miles from the graves of his parents and grandparents. He continued by saying that while it might sound illogical that he found this comforting.

To quote W5HLH: " My journey began here, and it will soon end here."

Sadly for all of us, it did on Sunday, November 15th. Now everyone involved in private radio is mourning the passing of this gifted writer who contributed so much to every aspect of the personal communications hobby.

Harry Helms, W5HLH, is survived by his wife, Di. As we go to air, funeral arrangements are still pending. (NZ4O, ARRL, others)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: FAMED INVENTOR LOUIS KING PASSES AWAY

Louis Arthur King, the well known founder of Kintronic Labs, passed away on Sunday morning, November 1st.

Considered to be one of the nations finest consulting engineers, Louis King started his engineering career as a professor in the electrical engineering department at Clemson College, now Clemson University. That's where he instituted the teaching of radio engineering courses. He later went on to help design the first air-cooled 50 kilowatt AM transmitter at RCA and received the patent for the bistable multi-vibrator, better known as the flip-flop circuit.

In 1949 he obtained his Professional Engineering license in Tennessee and Virginia and began a broadcast consulting business. This venture grew into what is now Kintronic Labs, which is the maker of AM broadcast antenna systems and components.

Louis King was recognized by the National Association of Broadcasters in 2007 as the recipient of the NAB Lifetime Radio Engineering

Achievement Award. Later that same year, King College honored him with an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at their first winter commencement.

At the time of his death Louis Arthur King was 94 years of age. (CGC, RW)

**

HAM RADIO NEAR SPACE: NEXT BACAR TO LAUBCH JAN 24 2010

Turning to ham radio near space, ZS6EF will demonstrate the 2010 version of a Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio. This, on Saturday November 21st at the National Amateur Radio Center in South Africa.

The maiden flight of this latest near space ham radio equipped balloon flight will be on Sunday, January 24th 2010 from South Africa's Western Cape. Radio Amateurs from around the globe will be able to follow it on the Web. More information is at www.amsatsa.org.za (SARL)

**

WORLDBEAT: E-VOTING COMES TO THE RSGB

Electronic voting has come to Radio Society Great Britain's elections. This with word that a new electronic voting system administered by the Electoral Reform Society is now up and running for voting in the RSGB 2009 balloting.

There are four Board places to be filled and Region 9 also has an election for the Regional Representative position. RSGB members have until noon on 10 December to register their vote. Those who prefer can still send in a postal vote and an envelope is included with this month's Radio Communications magazine. (RSGB)

**

ON THE AIR: MAKE TUESDAYS 222 ACTIVITY DAY

If you own a radio capable of operation in the 222 to 225 MHz band then make Tuesday's the new 222 Activity Day. So says Todd Sprinkmann, KC9BQA, in Wisconsin who is suggesting that anyone with gear for the 1 and 1/4 meters use it to return activity to the underused band.

Todd suggests that those wanting to take part take to the air using either Morse on or near 222.100 or 223.500 on FM in the 0100 to 0400 U-T-C. He says to call CQ, swing your beams, create your own activity and invite a ham radio buddy to join in as well.

Sprinkmann also suggests that hams on 222 MHz consider using the www dot ON4KST dot com chat that thousands of other hams on other bands are already using. He notes that there are several steps in signing up and he has provided that information at his webite at www dor kc9bqa dot com.

And for those who were not around two decades ago when ham radio lost the 220 to 222 MHz portion of the band, the words true then could also be very apropos now as well: 222 - Use it or loose it. (VHF Reflector)

**

WORLDBEAT: OMAN CELEBRATION

Members of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society have activated special event station A43ND in celebrating Oman's "National Day". Activity will last until November 25th. Operations have been on 40 and 20 meters CW and 20/15 meters SSB, but look for activity on other bands and modes. QSL via A47RS. (ROARS)

**

DX

In DX, word that a team of Italian amateur radio operators will be active from Busua Beach Ghana through November 27th. Activity will be on all HF bands and modes, on 80 through 10 meters. The callsign 9G5TT will be used from the mainland while the callsign 9G5XX will be used from Abokwa Island. QSL via I2YSB, direct only.

F6ICX will be active as 5R8IC from Saint Marie Island through December 15th. Activity will be on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

A35A reports that A35KL will be in Tonga for about 6 weeks, but he probably won't be on the air until he gets to Ha'apai on November 20th. No word on his length of stay on the island but he will be operational for the CQ World Wide CW contest.

Also during the contest listen out for Cuban station CO6LP. He will be on as a 40 meter single operator, single band low power station using only a dipole. QSL via CO6LP.

The Lufthansa Amateur Radio Club in cooperation with the Emirates Amateur Radio Society will be operating out of Dubai as A65DLH between November 23rd and the 30th. Activity is planned for 160 through 10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes. Please QSL via the bureau.

IZ0EGM will be active as T70A during ARRL 10 Meter Contest between on December 12th and 13th. He will be operating both CW and SSB. His QSL information can be found on QRZ.com.

Lastly, UY5LW will be operational from Maputo, Mozambique as C91LW until December 3rd. Hes reportedly operating 80 through 10 meters using mostly CW with some RTTY and PSK. QSL as directed on the air.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: THE ROBOT OLYMPICS

And finally this week, China is planning to hold a 16 event robot Olympics in 2010. Spud Murphy, VK8ZWM, is down-under with more:

Yes robots will compete in familiar Olympic sports such as athletics as well as those more suited to machines such as cleaning. Entry to the competition will be restricted to robots resembling humans. They must possess two arms and legs. Wheels are banned.

Robots already have their own world cup. The 2009 competition saw entries from 400 teams that hailed from 35 separate nations. The 2010 event will be held in June in Singapore. A rival event is run by the Federation of International Robot-Soccer Associations.

The Chinese robot games will be one among an increasingly crowded calendar for robot sports and other competitive events. One event, Roboexotica, is for robots that can mix cocktails, light cigarettes and chat with bar patrons. No word that Robot-Exotica will feature Energizer "Bunnies" as hostesses.

This is Spud, VK8ZWM in Darwin.

--

The Chinese event will face competition from the RoboGames that also stages sports events for robots. The 2010 RoboGames will take in California in April. And less we forget to mention it, almost all of these robots are controlled by some form of a radio link. (WIA)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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487. Re: Radiomans' weekend

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-20 18:31:25 UTC
From: N2EY@AOL.COM
Message-ID: <ec29d1ab-edde-459d-b4d0-2bb0ebd467c7@l13g2000yqb.googlegroups.com>
Source record: 1797

On Nov 9, 6:34 pm, K HB <kzer...@gmail.com> wrote:
> What weekend!

Yes, it was. Even at the bottom of the sunspot cycle.
>
> CW Sweepstakes is my "radio high" each fall.

Same here. I'm not a serious contester, I focus on just two main efforts a year: FD and SS. Completely different contests but both are fun.

> This is a Radioman skill
> contest, not a computer operator skill contest.
> The long, complex, and
> unpredictable exchange emphasizes operator
> skill, and the crowded bands
> challenge your station design skills.

Yes, and there's more. Because you can only work another station once, and section multipliers count for so much, you have to choose band and operating style for maximum ROTI (Return On Time Investment). IOW how much time is it worth to work a weak one, when that same station may be 20 over on another band in a couple of hours? Will that rare section show up as you run stations, or should you go hunting? Etc.

A computer logger helps (I went the N3FJP route in 2007 - had to assemble a computer to do it, no big deal) but the computer won't make operating decisions for you. And you still need those Radioman skills.
>
> Thanks for the Q, Jim.

You're welcome, Hans. I think we've had an SS QSO every SS since about 1970. Field Day too.

This year I couldn't go all-out; just a couple of hours with the Southgate Type 7. Still managed a couple hundred QSOs and well over 60 sections.

Heard the really big guns handing out serial numbers in the 1500s. That means there were at least 1500 different stations on that weekend, all running CW. Since some stations are multiops, the total number of ops involved is higher.

Field Day Next!

73 de Jim, N2EY

488. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-22 07:00:04 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1258873202@panix.com>
Source record: 1798
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

489. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-22 07:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1258873501@panix.com>
Source record: 1799
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

490. FCC Daily Digest 11/25/2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-25 18:32:16 UTC
From: noreply@info.fcc.gov
Message-ID: <ADMIN-44256-330571-2009.11.25-12.26.26--rec-radio-info#panix.com-a@info.fcc.gov>
Source record: 1800
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Daily Digest

Vol. 28 No. 232 November 25, 2009
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE DATED AND RELEASED TODAY:

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NEWS RELEASES

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FCC ANNOUNCES TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 16TH OPEN MEETING. News
Release OMD
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294879A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294879A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294879A1.txt

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Report No: SES-01196 Released: 11/25/2009. SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICES RE: Satellite Radio Applications Accepted for Filing. IB .
Contact: (202) 418-0719, TTY: (202) 418-2555
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294858A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294858A1.txt

Report No: SES-01197 Released: 11/25/2009. SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS
SERVICES INFORMATION RE: Action Taken. IB . Contact: (202) 418-0719,
TTY: (202) 418-2555
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294859A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294859A1.txt

Report No: 47119 Released: 11/25/2009. BROADCAST ACTIONS. MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294818A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294818A2.pdf

Report No: 0301 Released: 11/25/2009. SPECIAL RELIEF AND SHOW CAUSE
PETITIONS. MB . Contact: (202) 418-7200
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294849A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294849A1.pdf

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294849A1.txt

Report No: 27119 Released: 11/25/2009. BROADCAST APPLICATIONS. MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294817A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294817A2.pdf

Report No: 4176 Released: 11/25/2009. CABLE TELEVISION RELAY SERVICE (CARS) APPLICATIONS RE: ACTIONS ON PENDING APPLICATIONS. MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294827A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294827A1.txt

Released: 11/25/2009. OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY INVITES PROPOSALS FROM ENTITIES SEEKING TO BE DESIGNATED TV BAND DEVICE DATABASE MANAGERS. (DA No. 09-2479). (Dkt No 04-186) Proposal Due: 01/04/2010. Comments Due: 02/03/2010. Reply Comments Due: 02/18/2010. OET . Contact: Alan Stillwell at (202) 418-2470 or Hugh L. Van Tuyl at (202) 418-7506
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2479A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2479A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2479A1.txt

Released: 11/25/2009. OFFICE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY CLARIFIES USE OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ASC C63 MEASUREMENT STANDARDS FOR COMPLIANCE TESTING OF TESTING OF INTENTIONAL AND UNINTENTIONAL RADIATORS UNDER PART 15. (DA No. 09-2478). OET . Contact: William Hurst at (301) 362-3031, email: William.Hurst @fcc.gov
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2478A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2478A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2478A1.txt

Released: 11/25/2009. EX PARTE PRESENTATIONS AND POST-REPLY COMMENT PERIOD FILING IN PERMIT-BUT-DISCLOSURE PROCEEDINGS. OMD . Contact: Jason Lewis at (202) 418-0310
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294854A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294854A1.txt

Report No: CWS-10-15 Released: 11/25/2009. ANTENNA STRUCTURE REGISTRATION SERVICE INFORMATION ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294804A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294804A1.txt

Report No: 5443 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU SITE-BY-SITE ACTION. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294836A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294836A1.txt

Report No: 5444 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU SITE-BY-SITE ACTION. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294837A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294837A1.txt

Report No: 5438 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU MARKET-BASED APPLICATIONS ACTION. WTB

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294826A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294826A1.txt

Report No: 5440 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU SITE-BY-SITE ACCEPTED FOR FILING. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294833A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294833A1.txt

Report No: 5440A Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU SITE-BY-SITE ACCEPTED FOR FILING. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294834A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294834A1.txt

Report No: 5439 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU MARKET-BASED APPLICATIONS ACTION. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294825A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294825A1.txt

Report No: 5441 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU SITE-BY-SITE ACCEPTED FOR FILING. PSHSB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294835A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294835A1.txt

Report No: 5436 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU MARKET-BASED APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR FILING. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294824A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294824A1.txt

Report No: 5437 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU MARKET-BASED APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR FILING. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294823A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294823A1.txt

Report No: 5447 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU SITE BASED LICENSES TERMINATION PENDING PUBLIC NOTICE. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294831A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294831A1.txt

Report No: 5445 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU MARKET BASED LICENSES TERMINATION PENDING PUBLIC NOTICE. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294829A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294829A1.txt

Report No: 5448 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU SITE BASED LICENSES TERMINATION PENDING PUBLIC NOTICE. WTB http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294830A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294830A1.txt

Report No: 5446 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU MARKET BASED LICENSES TERMINATION PENDING PUBLIC NOTICE. WTB http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294828A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294828A1.txt

Report No: 5452 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ASSIGNMENT OF LICENSE AUTHORIZATION APPLICATIONS, TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF LICENSEE APPLICATIONS, DE FACTO TRANSFER LEASE APPLICATIONS AND SPECTRUM MANAGER LEASE NOTIFICATIONS, DESIGNATED ENTITY REPORTABLE ELIGIBILITY EVENT APPLICATIONS, AND DESIGNATED ENTITY ANNUAL REPORTS ACTION. PSHSB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294840A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294840A1.txt

Report No: 5449 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU ASSIGNMENT OF LICENSE AUTHORIZATION APPLICATIONS, TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF LICENSEE APPLICATIONS, AND DE FACTO TRANSFER LEASE APPLICATIONS, AND DESIGNATED ENTITY REPORTABLE ELIGIBILITY EVENT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR FILING. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294839A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294839A1.txt

Report No: 5451 Released: 11/25/2009. WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU ASSIGNMENT OF LICENSE AUTHORIZATION APPLICATIONS, TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF LICENSEE APPLICATIONS, DE FACTO TRANSFER LEASE APPLICATIONS AND SPECTRUM MANAGER LEASE NOTIFICATIONS, DESIGNATED ENTITY REPORTABLE ELIGIBILITY EVENT APPLICATIONS, AND DESIGNATED ENTITY ANNUAL REPORTS ACTION. WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294841A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294841A1.txt

Report No: 5450 Released: 11/25/2009. PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU ASSIGNMENT OF LICENSE AUTHORIZATION APPLICATIONS, TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF LICENSEE APPLICATIONS, AND DE FACTO TRANSFER LEASE APPLICATIONS, AND DESIGNATED ENTITY REPORTABLE ELIGIBILITY EVENT APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED FOR FILING. PSHSB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294838A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294838A1.txt

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TEXTS

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SMITH BAGLEY, INC. D/B/A CELLULAR ONE OF NE ARIZONA. Issued Notice of Apparent Liability against Smith Bagley, Inc. for apparent violation of Hearing Aid Compatibility Rules. Action by: Chief, Spectrum Enforcement Division, Enforcement Bureau. Adopted: 11/23/2009 by NAL. (DA No. 09-2473). EB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2473A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2473A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2473A1.txt

QWEST COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION V. FARMERS AND MERCHANTS MUTUAL TELEPHONE COMPANY. Granted in part Qwest's Petition for Partial Reconsideration. Action by: the Commission. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by

Order on Reconsideration. (FCC No. 09-103). EB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-103A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-103A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-103A1.txt

RCN CORPORATION PETITION FOR SPECIAL RELIEF. Extended to December 2, 2009 the date for RCN to file opposition to Montgomery County's petition for stay of the Order granting RCN special relief. Action by: Chief, Engineering Division, Media Bureau. Adopted: 11/25/2009 by ORDER. (DA No. 09-2493). MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2493A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2493A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2493A1.txt

AMENDMENT OF SECTION 73.622(I), POST-TRANSITION TABLE OF DTV ALLOTMENTS, TELEVISION BROADCAST STATIONS, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA. Proposed channel substitution for station KDMD(TV) from channel 32 to 33. (Dkt No. RM-11583 09-210). Action by: Chief, Video Division, Media Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by NPRM. (DA No. 09-2480). MB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2480A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2480A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2480A1.txt

L-3 CYTERRA. Granted the request for waiver to Allow Certification and Use of Electromagnetic Motion Detection and Ranging Devices Operating at 3100-3500 MHz. (Dkt No. 09-2). Action by: Deputy Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Deputy Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by ORDER. (DA No. 09-2482). WTB PSHSB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2482A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2482A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2482A1.txt

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ADDENDA: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, RELEASED NOVEMBER 24, 2009, DID NOT APPEAR IN DIGEST NO. 231:

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NEWS RELEASES

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FCC ANNOUNCES PANELISTS FOR NOV. 30 FIELD HEARING AT MIT ON ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT. News Release. News Media Contact: Mark Wigfield, 202-418-0253, mark.wigfield@fcc.gov OCH
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294853A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294853A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294853A1.txt

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Released: 11/24/2009. COMMENT SOUGHT ON BROADBAND MEASUREMENT AND CONSUMER TRANSPARENCY OF FIXED RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES IN THE UNITED STATES. (DA No. 09-2474). (Dkt No 09-137 09-47 09-51) NBP PUBLIC NOTICE #24 - PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED. Comments Due: 12/14/2009. WCB . Contact: Randy Clarke at (202) 418-1500
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2474A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2474A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2474A1.txt

Released: 11/24/2009. THE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUREAU REMINDS WIRELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMISSION'S HEARING AID COMPATIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BY JANUARY 15, 2010. (DA No. 09-2476) Electronic FCC Form 655 To Be Demonstrated on December 8, 2009. WTB . Contact: Weiren Wang at (202) 418-7275 or Michael Rowan at (202) 418-1883
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2476A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2476A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2476A1.txt

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SPEECHES

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PREPARED REMARKS OF CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI, "CONNECTING THE NATION: A NATIONAL BROADBAND PLAN," THE CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS. OCH
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294847A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294847A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-294847A1.txt

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TEXTS

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PRIMATRONIX LTD REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF VOLUME CONTROL RESET. Granted, with conditions, the request for waiver. Action by: Chief, Disability Rights Office, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by ORDER. (DA No. 09-2477). CGB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2477A1.doc

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2477A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2477A1.txt

UPLYNX, INC. Dismissed the application as defective, without prejudice to refiling. Action by: Chief, Satellite Engineering Branch, Satellite Division, International Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2463). IB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2463A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2463A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2463A1.txt

VIASAT, INC. Dismissed the modification application without prejudice to refiling. Action by: Deputy Chief, Satellite Division, International Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2481). IB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2481A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2481A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2481A1.txt

HARRIS CORPORATION. Dismissed the application, without prejudice to refiling. Action by: Chief, Satellite Engineering Branch, Satellite Division, International Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2465). IB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2465A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2465A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2465A1.txt

ALPHA BROADCASTING, INC. Dismissed the application without prejudice to refiling. Action by: Chief, Satellite Engineering Branch, Satellite Division, International Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2464). IB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2464A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2464A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2464A1.txt

NW COMMUNICATIONS OF PHOENIX. Dismissed the application as defective, without prejudice to refiling. Action by: Chief, Satellite Engineering Branch, Satellite Division, International Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2467). IB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2467A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2467A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2467A1.txt

NW COMMUNICATIONS OF PHOENIX, INC. Dismissed the application as defective, without prejudice to refiling. Action by: Chief, Satellite Engineering Branch, Satellite Division, International Bureau. Adopted: 11/24/2009 by LETTER. (DA No. 09-2466). IB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2466A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2466A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2466A1.txt

HARBINGER CAPITAL PARTNERS FUNDS AND SKYTERRA COMMUNICATIONS, INC. Issued a Protective Order in this proceeding. (Dkt No. 08-184). Action

by: Chief, International Bureau. Adopted: 11/23/2009 by Protective Order. (DA No. 09-2472). IB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2472A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2472A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-09-2472A1.txt

AMENDMENT OF THE AMATEUR SERVICE RULES GOVERNING VANITY AND CLUB STATION CALL SIGNS. Proposed to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the amateur service vanity call sign system. (Dkt No. 09-209). Action by: the Commission. Adopted: 11/23/2009 by NPRM. (FCC No. 09-102). WTB
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-102A1.doc
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-102A1.pdf
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-102A1.txt

491. The ARRL Letter for November 25, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-25 21:21:37 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091125212112.695F332DCB8@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1701
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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**********************************************
The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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November 25, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

ARRL Home Page <http://www.arrl.org/>ARRL Letter Archive
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

- ARRL Leadership: New Vice Directors in Central, Roanoke Divisions
- ARRL Field Organization: Incumbent Section Managers Win New Terms of
Office
- Regulatory: FCC Looks to Revise, Clarify Vanity Call Sign Rules
- Silent Key: ARRL Sweepstakes Manager Ken Adams, K5KA (SK)
- Now You Know!: The ARRL Lab
- Solar Update
- Amateur Radio in Space: New Antennas Installed on ISS
- This Week on the Radio

==> ARRL HEADQUARTERS CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS

ARRL Headquarters will be closed November 26 and 27 in observance of
Thanksgiving. There will be no W1AW bulletins or code practice
transmissions those days <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked>. This
edition of The ARRL Letter is being published a day early on Wednesday,
November 25, but there will be no ARRL Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> on Thursday, November 26. ARRL
Headquarters will reopen Monday, November 30 at 8 AM Eastern Standard
Time. We wish everyone a safe and bountiful Thanksgiving holiday.

==> ARRL LEADERSHIP: NEW VICE DIRECTORS IN CENTRAL, ROANOKE DIVISIONS

On Friday, November 20, ARRL staff members started opening ballots
for the Vice Director races in the Central and Roanoke Divisions. After
all the ballots were counted, both the Central and Roanoke Divisions
gained new Vice Directors, with their three-year terms beginning at
noon on January 1, 2010.

In the Central Division, challenger Kermit Carlson, W9XA, of Batavia,
Illinois, edged out incumbent Howard S. Huntington, K9KM, of Hawthorn
Woods, Illinois; Huntington has served as the Central Division's
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second-in-command since 1983. Carlson received 1808 votes, while Huntington received 1466 votes.

Roanoke Division Vice Director Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, decided not to seek another term. South Carolina Section Manager Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, of Aiken, and former West Virginia Section Manager Hal Turley, W8HC, of Huntington, were both nominated to succeed her. Boehner won the election with 1692 votes; Turley received 1496 votes. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/20/11212/?nc=1>.

==> ARRL FIELD ORGANIZATION: INCUMBENT SECTION MANAGERS WIN NEW TERMS OF OFFICE

Three incumbent Section Managers were re-elected in races that concluded on Tuesday, November 24. In Alabama, Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, received 513 votes; challenger Les Rayburn, N1LF, received 167 votes. Isbell, of Bessemer, will begin his second term as Section Manager on January 1, 2010. In the Alaska Section Manager election, Jim Larsen, AL7FS, of Anchorage, won his second two-year term of office when he received 176 votes; challenger David Stevens, KL7EB, received 65 votes. Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, of LaCygne, Kansas, will continue as Section Manager; he received 382 votes while challenger Joseph Plankinton, WD0DMV, received 175 votes. Cowan has been the Kansas Section Manager since 2003. The following incumbent ARRL Section Managers did not face opposition and were declared elected for their next terms of office beginning January 1, 2010: Jim Latham, AF6AQ (East Bay); Frank Filipkowski, AD3M (Delaware); Dale Williams, WA8EFK (Michigan); Don Wood, W5FHA (New Mexico); Glen Clayton, W4BDB (Tennessee); Robert Griffin, K6YR (Santa Barbara), and Ed Emco, W1KT (Western Massachusetts).

==> REGULATORY: FCC LOOKS TO REVISE, CLARIFY VANITY CALL SIGN RULES

On Wednesday, November 25, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) -- WT Docket No. 09-209 -- seeking to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules to clarify certain rules and codify existing procedures governing the vanity call sign system, as well as revise certain rules applicable to club stations.

According to the FCC, almost 80,000 licensees have replaced their sequentially issued Amateur Radio call signs with a vanity call sign since the program began in 1996. When the program began, the Commission established what they called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign system, concluding that call signs generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing the vanity call sign system, but indicated that the

procedures "would be set out in the Public Notices announcing 'starting gates' for the groups receiving initial priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from gate to gate as experience dictated." The procedures announced in the Public Notices announcing the gates are still in effect, but they are not set forth in the Commission's Rules. The NPRM states that the FCC "now believe[s] that certain provisions should be codified in our rules, and others added, so that the vanity call sign system will be fair, equitable and transparent to all amateur service licensees. The Commission also decided in the Vanity Report and Order [issued in 1996] to resume issuing new club station licenses. We believe that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate."

The comment period for WT Docket No. 09-209 will extend for 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. Historically, items appear in the Federal Register approximately 7-10 days after they appear on the FCC Web site. Reply comments can be made up to 75 days after publication in the Federal Register. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/25/11220/?nc=1>.

==> SILENT KEY: ARRL SWEEPSTAKES MANAGER KEN ADAMS, K5KA (SK)

Ken Adams, K5KA, succumbed to cancer and passed away on Sunday, November 22. He was 64. Adams -- an ARRL Life Member -- served as the first-ever Contest Manager for the ARRL Sweepstakes, coming on board in 2005. "Ken was a 'get it done' kinda guy," recalled ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. "He took on the task of Sweepstakes Manager with great enthusiasm, rolled up his sleeves and championed the event like nobody else I've ever seen." Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/23/11213/?nc=1>.

==> AMATEUR RADIO AND TECHNOLOGY : ARRL, MCSNYDER SOFTWARE TEAM UP TO PROVIDE ITUNES APPS

ARRL is pleased to announce the availability of a new suite of Amateur Radio mobile software -- designed specifically for use with the Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch. The applications -- or "apps" -- are named ARRL Technician
<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=304482342&mt=8>,
ARRL General
<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=306443425&mt=8>
and ARRL Extra
<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewSoftware?id=306931606&mt=8>
and function as an electronic version of practice exam flash cards. Amateur Radio exam candidates can use the applications as a study companion to the ARRL license manuals <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/lm/> and classroom instruction. The apps include all the possible questions and answers that will be on each of the license tests. Users can flag questions that need more review,

segment questions for study by sub-element, or even study the questions in a random order. The ARRL apps are produced and sold by McSnyder Software who has partnered with ARRL to provide the iPhone app series. McSnyder has also produced study applications for other organizations -- including exam preparation software for standardized educational testing in Texas, as well as US Citizenship immigration testing. "We are excited to introduce Amateur Radio and ARRL into the rapidly expanding mobile and portable technology arena," said ARRL Marketing Manager Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R. "Not only do these applications demonstrate ARRL's commitment to users of these popular devices, the software helps promote Amateur Radio outside of our traditional publication channels." The ARRL apps are available for $1.99 each on Apple's iTunes "App Store."

==> NOW YOU KNOW!: THE ARRL LAB

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

The hams who work in the ARRL Lab -- Ed Hare, W1RFI; Mike Gruber, W1MG; Zack Lau, W1VT, and Bob Allison, WB1GCM -- receive more than 100 calls each week, requesting assistance. I know that whenever I venture into the Lab, rife with deep, dark secrets of the Amateur Radio world, one, if not all four of these guys are either on the phone or on the computer, answering questions posed to them by members.

One afternoon, I wandered down to the Lab, and asked Zack, Mike and Bob, "What is the most common question you guys receive from our members?" Zack quickly answered: "They want to know what kind of radio to buy." Now, no one here at League Headquarters can tell you which radio to buy, but Zack explained to me how he walks through a question set with the caller: What do you want to do with the radio? Do you want to get on HF, or are you interested in emergency communications or just ragchewing on your local repeater? How much room do you have to set up a station? How much money is in your budget for a new rig? Once the caller answers these questions, Zack guides them toward certain classes of radios, giving the caller a narrower field to look at. He also suggests that they take a look at the ARRL online publication, Choosing a Ham Radio <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/choosingaradio/>, as well as the Technical Information Service (TIS <http://www.arrl.org/tis/>) section on the ARRL Web site.

The next most popular questions (in order) are:

- What kind of antenna should I get?
- When are the sunspots coming back?
- Why can't I get on HF?

So, even if you're an experienced ham who has seen just about everything, or if you just got your Technician license in the mail (or, like me, you're somewhere in between), and you have a technical question that you just can't seem to figure out the answer to, try calling on the ARRL Lab -- they just might be able to help you figure

it out. Now you know!

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "That its mild light creates to heal again
<http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/woman.htmlhttp:/englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/woman.html>"
Cook, K7RA, reports: This edition of the Solar Update will be brief. Since ARRL Headquarters is closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after, I hope to have another bulletin out Monday morning to catch up with the sunspot, solar flux and geomagnetic data information. In last Friday's Solar Update <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/20/11208/?nc=1>, we reported sunspot numbers for November 12-18 as 11, 0, 0, 11, 12, 0 and 29. Since then, from November 19-24, they were 30, 31, 14, 13, 0 and 0 -- definitely nice conditions for the ARRL SSB Sweepstakes last weekend. This weekend, November 28-29, is the CQ Worldwide CW DX Contest. Although recent activity seems a good trend, we have no indications when sunspots will return. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Monday, November 30. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' Woman! When I Behold Thee Flippant, Vain... <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/woman.html>

==> AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: NEW ANTENNAS INSTALLED ON ISS

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjWqN3fVQ0w> On Saturday, November 21, astronauts Mike Foreman and Randy Bresnik completed the second EVA (extra-vehicular activity) -- NASA's term for a spacewalk -- of their mission. While on the 6 hour, 8 minute EVA, Foreman installed the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS <http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>) antennas for 2 meters and 70 cm on the Columbus module. NASA ISS Ham Radio Project Engineer Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, told the ARRL that this new antenna -- along with another VHF antenna -- was developed by ARISS in cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA <http://www.esa.int/esaCP/index.html>) to support an experiment involving the maritime Automatic Identification System (AIS <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Identification_System>). "Both antennas were installed on the Earth-facing starboard edge of the Columbus module," he explained. "The AIS antenna is forward and the ARISS antenna is aft. The ARISS team is planning to migrate some stowed Amateur Radio gear to take advantage of the new antenna." Frequencies available for transmission to and from Columbus will be 2 meters, 70 centimeters and 13 cm. To start, two radios for 2 meters and 70 cm that don't see much use on the ISS will be moved and installed in Columbus . The space shuttle Discovery is expected to return to Earth on Friday, November 27 and will bring Nicole Stott, KE5GJN, back from her stay on the ISS.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

This week, look for an NCCC Sprint on November 27. The CQ Worldwide DX Contest (CW) is November 28-29. Next week, the ARRL 160 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/160-meters.html> is December 4-6 and the ARRL International EME Competition <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/eme.html> is December 5-6. The TARA RTTY Melee and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint are December 5. The TOPS Activity Contest is December 5-6, the ARS Spartan Sprint is December 8 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is December 9. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, December 27, 2009, for these online course sessions <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/> beginning on Friday, January 8, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

492. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1685 - November 27 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-11-26 21:30:51 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091126142740.0170a310@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1702
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1685 - November 27 2009

The following is a QST. Here is our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

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NEWSLINE SUPPORT FUND ADMINISTRATOR ANDY JAREMA, N6TCQ - SK

It is with deep personal sorrow that I report the sudden passing of our Newsline Support Fund Administrator and my personal friend of more than two decades, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

According to Andy's life companion and domestic partner Judy Hurst, late last week Andy was admitted to a local hospital for some tests. His condition deteriorated very quickly he was placed on life support. The diagnosis was multiple organ failure. Andy passed away just before noon on Tuesday, November 24th.

In a conversation with Judy just prior to writing this report I was told that no services are planned at this time. Instead a "Celebration of Andy's Life" will be held here in Los Angeles sometime in January, 2010. We will let you know an exact time, date and location as soon as plans have been completed.

Those of you wishing to send condolences to Judy and members of the Jarema family can do so by e-mail to newsline@arnewsline.org or by regular mail through me. My address is 28197 Robin Avenue, Saugus California, 91350. Either way, we will deliver anything we receive to Judy within the next few weeks.

In the meantime, there is an old saying that the show must go on. Knowing Andy as well as I did, he would want it to be that way. We will do just that and also dedicate this weeks newscast to Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, and his everlasting memory.

I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF. Now, here's Frank Haas, KB4T, with this weeks report. Frank.

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Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1685 with a release date of Friday, November 27th, 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1. Fear of the Swine Flu puts the North Pole Network on hold, U-K hams go on alert as flooding continues, Cuba to start supplying its ham community with electronic parts, and a U-K radio amateur starts spreading holiday cheer early. Find out the details on this good Samaritan ham radio operator on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1685 coming your

way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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HELPING HAMS: H1N1 SWINE FLU SCARE HALTS THE NORTH POLE NETWORK

An annual holiday tradition in Orange County, California will be interrupted this year by a bug, and it's not the computer kind. Newsline's Joe Moell, K0OV has the story.

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For 32 years, the voice of Santa Claus has echoed in the halls and patient rooms of Childrens Hospital in Orange County, California just before Christmas Eve. St. Nick wants to make sure that the kids have a chance to put in their holiday requests, and he has used a group of ham operators to make it happen. With their portable gear, members of the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System have gone from room to room and given each child a personal one-on-one chat with the fellow in the big red suit, who is up in his office at the North Pole getting ready for his big trip. They call it the North Pole Network.

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Previous contact audio

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But this year, because of the H1N1 virus, kids in hospitals will probably just have to send Santa an e-mail. North Pole Network is cancelled, says its founder, April Moell WA6OPS:

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"For infection control, hospitals throughout Orange County have instituted new visitor policies limiting who can go into patient rooms. Most of them limit the number of people in a patient room to two, and those people typically need to be immediate family members or guardians. No outside visitors are now being allowed into the patient rooms at Childrens Hospital, and the group playrooms are being closed as well."

North Pole Network won't be active this year, but April and her crew are already planning to go to Childrens Hospital in 2010. You can read all about the North Pole Network and see photos going all the way back to 1976 on the Web at hdscs.org. That's hdscs.org, which is short for the Hospital Disaster Support Communications System. It's an ARES group that provides emergency communications for 35 hospitals in the county.

>From southern California, this is Joe Moell, K0OV, for Amateur Radio Newsline.

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If you know of other Operation Santa Claus or North Pole Network functions that have been cancelled due to fear of spreading of that dreaded H1N1 Swine Flu, please let us know. We in turn will pass that information along in our newscast. (K0OV, NPN)

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CHANGING TIMES: CUBA TO PROVIDE PARTS TO HAMS AND WILL MANUFACTURE 160 METER RADIO

According the Cuban news service CAN, that nations Ministry of Informatics and Communications will soon start providing ham radio operators with the components and parts for their equipment. This, from stock that had been left idle for some time.

Pedro Rodriguez, president of the Cuban Amateur Radio Federation told the press that the first 600 units are ready for delivery. He says that by using them his nations ham radio community will be able to assemble new stations or update those they already have.

But that's not all. During the recently concluded 8th Cuban Ham Radio Federation Congress, a prototype of a domestically designed transceiver was shown. With the brand name "Caiguaran," the gear was designed by several specialists and will be manufactured at one of the Ministry of Informatics factories.

Josï¿½ Tanquero is one of the hams that worked on the creation of the radio. He told the news service that it Runs 20 watts out on 160 meters which it's the legal for Cuban Third Category ham radio license holders. By adding modules both 80 and 40 meters can be covered as well.

The Cuban Amateur Radio Federation has over 5500 members many of whom are involved in both severe weather watch and emergency communications operations. (CAN)

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RESTRUCTURING: BELGIUM GIVES HAMS A 4 METER SLIVER ALLOCATION

Radio Amateurs in Belgium now have limited access to a small allocation at 4 meters. Holders of Class A holders have access to 69.950 MHz, plus or minus 5 kHz with 10 Watts Effective Radiated Power. This, on a non-interference basis with other users of this spectrum.

Hams in Belgium that wish to use this frequency must first inform their telecommunications regulator the Belgian Institute for Postal services and Telecommunications of their plans. Although this frequency is outside the 70.0 to 70.5 MHz allocation used elsewhere in Europe it is none-the-less a very welcome first step by radio amateurs in that nation. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: UK RAYNET ACTIVATES FOR CUMBRIA FLOODING

Flooding in parts of the United Kingdom have put one ham radio response teams on alert. In North Pennines, that area's RAYNET group was put on standby by the Cumbria Emergency Planning Office on Friday morning, 20th November. Neighboring groups from RAYNET Yorkshire Zone 2 the North-West Zone 10 were also placed an call-up alert. While they were permitted to stand down on Friday night, after a review of the situation on Saturday, and with weather conditions set to deteriorate once again overnight Saturday into Sunday, the groups were again placed into stand-by on Saturday afternoon. More on this UK rescue radio activation as soon as information is released. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

The news never stops and neither do we. From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WA2EHL bulletin service coming your way from Burlington, New Jersey.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO LAW: FCC CHAIRMAN SPEAKS ABOUT FUTURE SPECTRIUM SHORTAGE

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski still maintains that there is a looming spectrum crisis, but he now appears to be trying to calm the waters a bit. This, after several weeks of increasing alarm from broadcasters over FCC talks about reclaming some of their spectrum for wireless broadband services. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has more;

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In an interview Friday, November 20th for C-SPAN's Communicators series, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski expressed his view there are many ideas being offered as to what the commission could do to address the need for more spectrum. He stated that his agency has not decided anything about which ideas were the best. Genachowski also repeated a point he made earlier in the week at a press conference, which is that this is a long-term planning issue for the nation to deal with..

Genachowski admitted that his agency does not operate on impulse noting that it has historically taken the FCC between 6 and 13 years to reclaim spectrum. He said the FCC would be looking at government and commercial spectrum, but that there were no easy pickings on the spectrum chart, and hard choices will have to be made.

And he did have a rather dyer warning. He stated -- and we quote:

"We know the problem is coming. It's not coming next week; it's not coming next month; it's not coming next year, but it is coming."

And added Chairman Genachowski, the FCC has to start coming up with the policies to address it now.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

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While ham radio was never mentioned by the FCC chairman, the big question for the service is how much of our spectrum, especially in the microwave region might come under consideration for possible reallocation in the years to come. (B&C)

**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS LAW: FCC SAYS YES TO NET NEUTRALITY

The FCC has said yes to the concept of Internet Neutrality. This as the regulatory agency take an important step toward prohibiting broadband providers from favoring or discriminating against certain kinds of Internet traffic.

Despite the concerns of many telecommunications companies who believe that they have the right to regulate connection speed and capacity. The broadband providers insist they need flexibility, free from government intervention, to keep their networks running smoothly

But telecommunications regulators disagree. Now the Federal Communications Commission has voted to begin writing so-called "network neutrality" regulations with a vote on whether to adopt them expected to come by next summer.

Proponents say the rules would prevent phone and cable companies from abusing their control over the market for broadband access. FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said regulations are needed to ensure that broadband subscribers can access all legal Web sites and services, including Internet calling applications and video sites that compete with the broadband companies' core businesses. (W8HDU)

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RADIO LAW: FCC RELEASES NOI ON CHILDRENS USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA

The Federal Communications Commission has issued a Notice of Inquiry seeking comment on issues related to children's use of electronic media. In its press release, the regulatory agency notes that the evolving electronic media landscape presents parents with both tremendous opportunities and critical challenges.

On the one hand, electronic media technologies present many benefits for children, such as offering an almost unlimited potential for ways to educate children and provide them with the technological literacy needed to compete in a global economy. On the other, the technological developments that produce these benefits also present risks for children.

The FCC says that its goal with the Notice of Inquiry is to gather data and recommendations from experts, industry, and parents that will enable it to identify actions that all stakeholders can take to enable parents and children to navigate this promising electronic media landscape safely and successfully. As such, it seeks information on the extent to which children are using electronic media today, including television, cell phones and other mobile devices, DVD players and VCRs, video games iPods and other MP3 players, and the Internet. The Notice of Inquiry also asks about the benefits and risks these technologies bring for children and the ways in which parents, teachers, and children can help reap the benefits of electronic media while minimizing the risks.

The FCC's Notice of Inquiry is titled Empowering Parents and Protecting Children in an Evolving Media Landscape. Comments are due January 25, 2010 and reply comments are due February 22, 2010. A link to it can be found at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-09-94A1.doc. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC BACKS AWAY FROM KWVE FINE AFTER INDUSTRY PROTEST

The Federal Communications Commission has reversed itself in a case that raised broadcaster hackles, and rescinded a $5,000 levied on KWVE FM of San Clemente, California. Instead, the commission has now admonished the Calvary Chapel owned station for transmitting an unauthorized Required Monthly Test of the Emergency Alert System.

As previously reported, the Enforcement Bureau had been asked to reconsidered its earlier fine issued in September against the station and to set it aside because of the unique circumstances at hand. This included the voluntary and critical nature of the service provided by local primary stations in enabling statewide EAS activity.

Fifty state broadcast associations had protested the fine and asked the agency to reconsider or cancel the penalty. They feared that such a punitive measure for an accidental wrong transmission might deter other stations in the EAS chain from volunteering as Local Primaries because of fear of penalties for errors made during good faith operation. (CGC, RW)

**

RADIO LAW: CALIFORNIA BANS HIGH ENERGY USE TV RECEIVERS

TV sets that use excessive levels of mains power will be banned from store shelves in California. This, after state regulators voted on Wednesday, November 18th to adopt a mandate to reduce electricity demand.

On a unanimous vote, the California Energy Commission required all new televisions up to 58 inches to be more energy efficient, beginning in

2011. The requirement will be tougher in 2013, with only a quarter of all TVs currently on the market meeting that standard. TV sets larger than 58 inches, which account for no more than 3 percent of the market, would not be covered by the rule. This is viewed as a concession to independent retailers that sell high-end home-theater TV systems. However, the commission is expected to regulate them in the future.

The commission estimates that TV receivers account for about 10 percent of a home's electricity use. The concern is that the energy draw will rise by as much as 8 percent a year as consumers buy larger televisions, add more to their homes and watch them longer. Commissioners say energy efficiency standards are the cheapest and easiest way to save electricity. More than 1,050 models sold today comply with the 2011 California standards, and more than 300 comply with the 2013 standard, according to the Energy Commission. (Published reports)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: W9XA AND N2ZZ ELECTED AS NEW ARRL VICE DIRECTORS

A upset in the ARRL Central Division Vice Director's race where VUAC Chairman Kermit Carlson, W9XA, has routed longtime incumbent Vice Director Howard Huntington K9KM in his bid to retain he position he has held since 1983. When the votes were tallied Carlson had received 1808 while Huntington garnered only 1466.

Kermit Carlson is an engineering physicist with Fermi National Accelerator Lab. He was appointed to the League's VHF/UHF Advisory Committee in 2005 and served as Chairman since this past January.

Meantime in the Roanoke Division, Vice Director Patricia Hensley, N4ROS, decided not to seek another term. That left the field wide open with South Carolina Section Manager Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, and former West Virginia Section Manager Hal Turley, W8HC, both nominated to succeed her. When the votes were tallied, Boehner won the election with 1692 votes while Turley received 1496.

Boehner is a physician specializing in women's healthcare. He has served four terms as the ARRL South Carolina Section Manager.

In addition to Carlson and Boehner, seven incumbent directors and vice directors were declared elected without opposition. All will begin three-year terms of office beginning at noon on January 1, 2010. (ARRL)

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BREAK 2

With you 52 weeks a year, every year since 1976. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: REPEATER PIONEER KARL PAGEL, N6BVU - S.K.

It is with much sadness that we report the passing of on our friend and former Newsline Survey-master Karl Pagel, N6BVU. Karl had been in declining health for some time and being treated in a nursing home in Orange County, California.

Among his many achievements was his co-authoring with Kevin Karamanos, WD6DIH, of the most accurate and inclusive repeater directory covering the great American South-West. Its been said that if a repeater actually existed that it could be found in Karl's database and in the directories that he and Kevin published for more than half a decade.

Karl was also heavily involved in repeater coordination issues. While he never owned or operated a repeater it was his work with all three of Southern California's regional frequency coordination bodies that helped many a new system come on the air. His work did not go unnoticed nationally and he was appointed as the Southwestern Division representative on the ARRL's VHF Repeater Advisory Committee where he also as chairman for one term. He was also presented with the ARRL Southwestern Division's Meritorious Service Award for his dedication to repeaters and frequency coordination.

In addition to all of this, when Amateur Radio Newsline gained its original corporate status in the mid-1980's and we needed to find out who was listening, it was Karl who offered his services to us. And for about two years he dutifully tallied all of responses to the survey questions we put out.

Karl Pagel was gifted had the knowledge needed to do complex database work and gave of himself unselfishly for the betterment of the hobby. Dick McKay, K6VGP, is one of the founding fathers of the original Southern California repeater Association. In an e-mail to Newsline, McKay said that N6BVU was certainly a good man and a true friend of ham radio.

Karl Pagel, N6BVU, was age 66 when he passed away on November 10th. He is survived by his mother Mary, KA6IGG, his brother Kent and a Southern California ham radio community that truly admired his dedication and work on their behalf. (ARNewsline(tm), K0OV, K6VGP)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THE NANOTOM

Turning to the Newsline science page, there's now a new, non destructive way for scientists to take a look at objects that are a part of mankind's present and its history. Fred Vobbe, W8HDU, tells us about the newly developed Nanotom.

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Researchers at the University off Nottingham have a new weapon in their arsenal of tools to push back the boundaries of science, engineering and archeology.

Call it Nanotom. It is described as the most advanced 3-D x-ray microcomputed tomography scanner in the world. The Nanotom is expected to help researchers in a wide variety of scientific disciplines to literally see through solids.

The machine will make previously difficult investigation much easier as it allows researchers to prove inside objects without having to break them apart.

I'm Fred Vobbe, W8HDU.

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The Nanotom is being viewed as an amazing step forward in the science of looking at the past and present as a doorway to the future of scientific advancement. (Science OnLine)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS GETS NEW DUAL BAND ANTENNA

Turning to space related ham radio news, word that a new dual band amateur radio antenna system has been installed on the International Space Station's Columbus Module. The antenna project was funded entirely by AMSAT-North America and the volunteers who built the antennas for both an European Space Agency experiment and for ARISS use.

The new antenna is described as very similar to the antennas already on the Russian service module. Once all antennas are in place the ARISS team will be working to bring amateur radio to the Columbus module.

Lou McFadin, W5DID is the ARISS US Hardware Manager. He says that this is an example of what can be achieved by ham radio volunteers hams working closely with a space agency. (ARISS)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: AO-7 TURNS AGE 35

A happy birthday to the Amsat Oscar 7 ham radio satellite that turned 35 on November 15th. A O 7 was carried into orbit on November 15, 1974 by a Delta 2310 launcher from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It used a circularly polarized canted turnstile VHF and UHF antenna system and High Frequency dipole for 10 meters.

The second in the phase 2 satellite generation, A O 7 weighed 28.6 kilograms. And what is truly amazing is that after all these years it is still possible to hold an occasional QSO over that bird.

The middle of the Mode B downlink passband is 145.950 MHz, and you will find most of the activity occurring between 145.940 MHz and 145.960

MHz. Generally, you'll hear CW operators below 145.950 and SSB operators above.

A Oh 7 was a part of a multiple payload mission. That same launcher also carried the NOAA 4 weather satellite and the Spanish INTASAT into space. (ANS)

**

ON THE AIR: IRELANDS GALWAY VHF GROUP FRPM CLIFDEN

On the air, word that the final operation from Ireland's Galway VHF Group will take place from the Clifden Lifeboat Station over the weekend of the 28th and 29th of November. This all band operation will have two stations in operation at all times using the special commemorative call EI 185 RNLI. Varying types of antenna construction will be used including a Kite antenna for the Low Frequency bands. Primary modes will be SSB and digital with some operation on SSTV also possible. There will be a special QSL card for all contacts made and SWL reports will also be welcomed. A QSL route will be released shortly. (IRTS)

**

DX

In DX, word that F6AUS will operate portable FG from Les Saintes Guadaloupe until March 2010. Look for him to possibly be on 160 and 80 meters. QSL via his home callsign.

K3CT and K3TEJ will be active slash KP2 from the U S Virgin Islands through December 1st. Their activity usually has an emphasis on the 160, 30, 17 and 12 meter bands. QSL to their individual home callsigns.

And a reminder that DO7AG, is expected to be in the South Pacific with his family between November and January. He plans to be active as 5W1QX from Western Samoa and A31CE from Tonga but only on 40 and 20 meters. Complete dates of his operations have not been announced yet.

The Algarve STAR DX Team has announced that the 4W6AL QSL cards have arrived from the printer and are being readied for mailout. All 4W6AL information can be found in cyberspace at algarvedx.com

AA7JV and HA7RY will be active from the Chesterfield Islands as TX3A until December 6th. Their operation has be on all of the HF bands but with an emphasis on the lower bands. Modes used have been on CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via HA7RY.

Lastly, IZ0EGM, will be active as from San Marino as T70A during ARRL 10 Meter Contest between December 11th and 13th, using CW and SSB. His QSL information is on QRZ.com.

Above from various DX news sources

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THAT FINAL ITEM: A GIFT FROM THE HEART

And finally, in keeping with the spirit of the upcoming holiday season we have the story of benevolence from one ham to several others. It took place in the United Kingdom where Jeramy Boot, G4NJH, has the details:

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The team of five GB2RS newsreaders in North West England have been given transceivers for 2, 4 and 6meters for use in transmitting the news. The radios have come from Graham, G1PYA, a regular listener to GB2RS.

The five newsreaders, G4GSY, G0MRL, G0NAJ, M1NTO and M0HDE would like to record their very great thanks to Graham for this valuable gift, which is so clearly in the traditional spirit of amateur radio.

Im Jerany Boot, G4NJH, and you are listening to the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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And we cannot think of a better story with which to start out the 2009 holiday season. (GB2RS)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us for the moment at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Saugus California 91350.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Frank Haas, KB4T, saying 73, happy Thanksgiving, and we thank you for listening.

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493. Invitation to take part in Skywarn Appreciation Day (Valley, Nebraska)

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-01 06:19:44 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091130183801.EC84E32A92B@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1703
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,oma.general,nebr.misc,nebr.gov,rec.radio.info

This was forwarded to me by Dave, W0NRW:

Greetings:
NWS (National Weather Service) here in Valley wishes to extend an
invitation to come out and operate the W0NWS station as part of the
Skywarn Appreciation Day.

The times are 6PM Friday Dec. 4 to Saturday 6PM Dec. 5. The address is
6707 N. 288th Street Valley Ne.

If you get lost 402-359-5166 or someone will be listening on
146.94MHz.

I believe this is year 11 for the event.
Geri Norris N5RIG

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
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494. The ARRL Letter for December 3, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-03 22:09:48 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091203220904.3D77D3280DA@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1704
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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December 3, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

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- + Operating: ARRL's Logbook of The World Reaches New Milestones
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- + Silent Key: Jerry Sevick, W2FMI (SK)
- Solar Update
- This Week on the Radio

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + ADVOCACY: ARRL CEO, GENERAL COUNSEL PRESENT ARRL'S STANCE ON BPL
TO FCC COMMISSIONERS

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, and General Counsel
Chris Imlay, W3KD, made the rounds of the five FCC Commissioners'
offices during November to acquaint them with the ARRL's position on
the regulation of interference from Broadband over Power Lines (BPL
<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>) systems. The meetings were
conducted in accordance with the rules governing ex parte
communications in pending rulemaking proceedings, in this case the
Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making (FNPRM) in ET Docket No. 04-37.
Read more here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/03/11230/?nc=1>.

==> + OPERATING: FROM ONE END OF HF TO THE OTHER: THE ARRL 160 METER
AND 10 METER CONTESTS
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Both MF and HF offer a lot of breathing room for all interests in Amateur Radio. As the 2009-2010 Contest Season continues, two single-band events in December will highlight the magic of the opposite ends of the shortwave spectrum: the ARRL 160 Meter Contest (2200 UTC Friday, December 4 through 1559 UTC Sunday, December 6) and the ARRL 10 Meter Contest (0000 UTC Saturday, December 12 through 2359 UTC Sunday, December 13). Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/01/11222/?nc=1>.

==> + OPERATING: ARRL'S LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD REACHES NEW MILESTONES

To date, more than 30,000 hams have entered more than 250 million QSOs into Logbook of The World (LoTW), the ARRL's online logging program. At this time last year, 22,959 hams had made just more than 192 million QSOs, marking an upswing in both users and QSOs of about 24 percent. The LoTW system is a repository of log records submitted by amateurs from around the world. When both participants in a QSO submit matching QSO records to LoTW, the result is a QSL that can be used for ARRL award credit. While US amateurs do not need to be members of the ARRL to use LoTW, only members can use LoTW to apply for ARRL awards, such as DXCC and Worked All States (WAS). Some awards, like the Triple Play Award, only use LoTW credits instead of traditional QSL cards (foreign amateurs do not need to be ARRL members to apply for ARRL awards). Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/03/11229/?nc=1>.

==> + THE DOCTOR IS IN: THE FUN -- AND CHALLENGES -- OF TOPBAND

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

I have been fascinated with the 160 meter band even before I upgraded to General back in 2007 -- it amazes me that amateurs can use radio waves that stretch out that long. I've also been working on getting my CW skills up to speed -- while I can send fairly quickly and cleanly, I know that my receiving skills need some work. The idea of combining my favorite band with a new (for me) mode of operating -- in a contest, no less -- is very titillating, to say the least. Can you tell I'm itching for the ARRL 160 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/160-meters.html> to get here now?

So the other day, the Doctor and I got to talking (his clinic is right next to my office, so we have quite a few conversations about Amateur Radio during his office hours). I asked him if he knew why the 160 meter band has what some might consider "special properties" during the North American winter. And when I get on the air this weekend for the contest, is there anything I should watch out for?

The Doctor -- who was in between patients at the time -- told me that atmospheric noise tends to increase with decreasing frequency -- since there is generally much less noise in winter, 160 meters is much more usable in the colder months. Our current position in the sunspot cycle makes the maximum usable frequency quite low on most days. The combination of these factors makes 160 a great spot -- just in time for

the upcoming contest.

The key challenge, he told me -- and perhaps the most important factor for success on topband -- is antenna design and deployment. Since horizontal antennas need to be hundreds of feet high to provide useful low angle performance, the successful 160 meter DX operator will use vertical antennas. While arrays of full size 1/4 wave (126 feet) verticals are feasible for some, most use shortened antennas, either as a single element or in multi-element arrays with reasonable success. Recent QST articles have provided a variety of designs of such elements, some almost invisible. Improved reception can be obtained using special receive antennas that reduce noise pickup faster than reducing signal reception. The resulting weak signal generally has a higher signal-to-noise ratio than that from the transmitting antenna.

Wow! If you haven't tried 160, a contest like the ARRL 160 Meter Contest provides an abundance of signals to let you know what your station can do. Do you have a question or a problem for the Doctor? Send your questions via e-mail <doctor@arrl.org> or to "The Doctor," ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111 (no phone calls, please). Look for "The Doctor Is IN" every month in QST <http://www.arrl.org/qst>, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> COMING UP IN QST : LOOK FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE OF QST TO ARRIVE SOON

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZGs12TPGws> The January issue of QST <http://www.arrl.org/qst> -- our first-ever DIY edition -- is jam-packed with all sorts of news and information that today's Amateur Radio operator needs. With a focus on "do it yourself" projects that you can build in as little as a couple of days (or even an afternoon!), the January issue also includes product reviews, experiments, public service and on-the-air activities -- something for just about everyone. Click here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/02/11228/?nc=1> to discover what's in store for you in the January issue of QST, the official journal of the ARRL.

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members, such as holding elections for the two positions on the ARRL Board of Directors and 10 Section Managers, providing support for affected Sections during Tropical Storm Ida, conducting a frequency measuring test, sending out certificates and plaques for various ARRL contests and more. This installment covers the month of November. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/12/01/11225/?nc=1>.

==> + NOW YOU KNOW!: A BRIEF HISTORY OF MODERN DAY 160 METERS

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the ARRL 160 Meter Contest. In 1970, the ARRL Board of Directors authorized this new event at their meeting in May. According to the announcement that appeared in the October 1970 edition of QST <http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=63900&pub=qst>, the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee (CAC <http://www.arrl.org/contests/cac.html>) and "numerous 'top banders'" provided the guidance for the contest; based on their recommendations, they created its initial format.

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/LimitationsFor160_1979.pdf> Those licensed prior to May 1981 can surely remember the limitations on 160 meters due to the LORAN-A (Long Range Aid to Navigation) stations. These stations -- developed during World War II -- used signals that were transmitted on frequencies in and around our present-day 160 meter band. The LORAN-A stations were responsible for reduced Amateur Radio operations -- including frequency and power limitations -- on 160 meters in the United States.

If you look at license manuals from this time, you will find a chart (Part 97.61, Authorized Frequencies and Emissions) that dictated how much power amateurs could use on topband. This was broken up into band segments of 25 kHz, going from 1800 kHz up to 2000 kHz. In band segments of 25 kHz, it lists each US state and dictated how much power could be used during the day and during the night. For example, amateurs in Connecticut on 1844 kHz could use 100 W during the day, but had to go down to 25 W at night; Connecticut hams were not even allowed on during the day or night between 1850-1975 kHz! Conversely, Oklahoma hams had daytime topband privileges of 1000 W and could use 200 W at night on 1800-1825 kHz.

On May 21, 1981, US amateurs got some good news when the FCC lifted most of the restrictions on 1800-1900 kHz: For the first time, kilowatt powers were authorized for both daytime and nighttime use as the LORAN-A stations were being phased out. In 1979, the Coast Guard began replacing the LORAN-A stations with LORAN-C stations. These newer stations operate on 100 kHz, enabling the restrictions on 160 meters due to LORAN functions to be dropped.

Most amateur transceivers didn't even begin to include 160 meters until the influx of Japanese imports began in the 1970s. As a result of that -- as well as the elimination of the HF LORAN system -- 160 meters has grown in popularity over the past couple of decades. Now in its 40th year, the ARRL 160 Meter Contest is still growing. From the first running in 1970 with 270 logs submitted, to 2008 with 1280 logs submitted, more amateurs are becoming fascinated with all that topband has to offer. If you've never been on 160 before, try making a few contacts. If you're a topband veteran, this is the chance to strut your stuff. For more information on 160 meters, check out DXing on the Edge: The Thrill of 160 Meters <6354> by Jeff Briggs K1ZM. Now you know!

==> + ARRL RECOGNIZES: A. ROBERT PATZLAFF, W9JQT , WINS NOVEMBER QST COVER PLAQUE AWARD

The winner of the QST Cover Plaque Award for October is A. Robert Patzlaff, W9JQT , for his article "The Rockless, a VFO Controlled Low Power Transceiver." Congratulations Robert! The winner of the QST Cover Plaque award -- given to the author or authors of the best article in each issue -- is determined by a vote of ARRL members on the QST Cover Plaque Poll Web page <http://www.arrl.org/members-only/QSTvote.html>. Cast a ballot for your favorite article in the December issue by Thursday, December 31.

==> + SILENT KEY: JERRY SEVICK, W2FMI (SK)

Jerry Sevick, W2FMI -- renowned for his research and publications related to short vertical antennas and transmission line transformers -- passed away on Sunday, November 29. He was 90. In 2004, Sevick, an ARRL Technical Advisor, received the ARRL Hudson Division Technical Achievement Award; in 2005, he received the Dayton Hamvention Technical Excellence Award. The Hamvention Awards Committee noted that Sevick's April 1978 QST article on short ground-radial systems "now serves as the world's standard for earth conductivity measurements." Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/01/11226/?nc=1>.

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "The snake all winter-thin cast on sunny bank its skin <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/fancy.html>" Cook, K7RA, reports: The recent sunspot activity, which ended on November 22, pushed up the moving average we've been tracking for several years. Because we have all the data for November, we now know the 3-month average of daily sunspot numbers centered on October. For 2009, the 3 month moving average (centered on January through October) was 2.19, 2.02, 1.49, 2.01, 4.23, 5.2, 4.0, 4.0, 4.64 and 7.1. The latest value is the highest since April 2008, when it was 8.89. The monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers are also rising, although not as smoothly as the three month average. The monthly averages for March through November 2009 are 0.77, 1.27, 3.97, 6.6, 5.07, 0.39, 6.6, 7.0 and 7.7. The November average is the highest since March 2008 when it was 15.87. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions December 4, unsettled December 5 and quiet December 6-10. Current projections show a steady quiet planetary A index of 5 for December 3 and 4, then 8 for December 5-6 and back to 5 through the end of the month. Solar flux predictions show December 3-7 at 71, 72 on December 8-10 then 75 on December 11-23. The predicted solar flux value of 75 seems to correspond to the return of an active region that we can see emerging from the dark spot on STEREO. An area that looked promising a few days ago has moved over the horizon and not produced any sunspots. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, December 4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' Fancy <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/fancy.html>.

==> ARRL PUBLICATIONS: TWO NEW PRODUCTS -- JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

If you're still looking for that "just right" stocking stuffer for the ham in your life (or maybe you want to treat yourself), look no further than the ARRL Online Store. This holiday season, we are proud to present two new items: the ARRL holiday ornament and the Pocket Ref by Thomas Glover. Check them out here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/30/11223/?nc=1>.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

This week, the ARRL 160 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/160-meters.html> is December 4-6 and the ARRL International EME Competition <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/eme.html> is December 5-6. The TARA RTTY Melee and the Wake-Up! QRP Sprint are December 5. The TOPS Activity Contest is December 5-6, the ARS Spartan Sprint is December 8 and the NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint is December 9. Next week, the ARRL 10 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html> is December 12-13. The Feld Hell Sprint is December 12. The MDXA PSK DeathMatch and the International Naval Contest are December 12-13. The NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally is December 12-16. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run are December 13. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, December 27, 2009, for these online course sessions <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/> beginning on Friday, January 8, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

495. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1686 - December 4 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-04 07:45:14 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091203182016.016adfc8@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1705
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1686 - December 4 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1686 with a release date of
Friday, December 4th 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC says its finally time to codify the
Vanity Callsign system, more waivers granted by the FCC for employers
to use ham employees in rescue radio drills, U-K hams stand ready if a
bridge falls and Irelands national ham radio society gets an unexpected
gift. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number
1686 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: FCC LOOKS TO CODIFY VANITY CALLSIGN SYSTEM

The FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making titled WT Docket
09-209 that seeks to amend the Commission's Amateur Radio Service
rules. This, to clarify certain regulations and codify existing
procedures governing the vanity call sign system. It also would
revise certain rules applicable to club stations. Bruce Tennant,
K6PZW, reports:

--

According to the FCC's November 25th release, almost 80,000 ham radio
licensees have replaced their sequentially issued call signs with a vanity
call sign since the program began in 1996. The FCC says the program began
it established what tit called "the broad outlines" of the vanity call sign
system to function under. As part of it the FCC concluded that call signs
generally should not be available for reassignment for two years following
the death of a licensee, or expiration or termination of the license for
that call sign. In doing so, the Commission made exceptions for former
holders of the call sign, close relatives of a deceased former holder and
club stations of which a deceased former holder was a member.

The Commission did not, however, specify all of the procedures governing
the vanity call sign system. Rather it indicated that the procedures would
be set out in the Public Notices announcing 'starting gates' for the groups
receiving initial priority and that the procedures would be adjusted from
gate to gate as experience dictated. The procedures announced in that 1996
Public Notices announcing those gates are still in effect, but they are not
set forth in the Commission's Rules. WT Docket 09-209 states that the FCC
now believes that certain provisions should be codified into its rules, and

others added, so that the vanity call sign system will be fair, equitable and transparent to all amateur service licensees.

Also when it released the 1996 vanity callsign Report and Order it used the opportunity to resume issuing new club station licenses. It now says that it believes that certain rule changes to the club station licensing rules may be appropriate.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tenant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

The comment period for WT Docket No. 09-209 will extend for 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. Historically, items appear in the Federal Register approximately 7 to 10 days after they appear on the FCC Web site. Reply comments can be made up to 75 days after publication in the Federal Register.
You can fine out more at
www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/11/25/11220/?nc=1. (ARRL)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: UNDERASTANDING THE VANITY CALLSIGN PROGRAM

And speaking about the Vanity Callsign System, have you ever wondered how it really works? Well the December issue of CQ Magazine truly does have all the answers. And it has them in a way that anyone can understand without having to have a copy of the Part 97 Amateur Service Rules at hand.

The article is titled The Perils and Pitfalls of Getting a Vanity Casllsign and its author is none other than, Fred Maia, W5YI, who was the founder of the nations second largest Volunteer Examiner Coordinator simply known as the W5YI VEC. And using a very simple question and answer format, Fred takes us on a trip from the dawning of the Vanity Callsign System to the present. Along the way he explains who is eligible for what type of vanity call, the reasons for this, the exceptions to the mandatory waiting time for a call to become available and much more.

If you have ever had any questions about the Vanity Callsign system and how to navigate it, this is your chance to get every detail in a clear and concise manner. Again the article is titled The Perils and Pitfalls of Getting a Vanity Casllsign by Fred Maia, W5YI. It begins on page 30 of the December 2009 issue of CQ Magazine that's on-sale right now. (CQ)

**

RESCUE RADIO: MORE PART 97:113(a) (3) WAIVERS GRANTED BY FCC

The FCC has granted several more requests by hospitals and government agencies to permit hams in their employ to take part in emergency communications preparedness drills. Covered under this latest round of waivers to Section 97.113(a)(3) of the Amateur Service Rules are the Murray County Medical Center in Slayton, Minnesota; the Center for Emergency Response to Terrorism of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior

Services in Jefferson City, Missouri; the Culver City Fire Department in Culver City, California; the Draper City Police Department of Draper, Utah and the Town of North Attleboro and its Board of Health of North Attleboro, Massachusetts.

While most of the requests were for single day events, some like the request from the Draper City Police Department and the Murray County Medical Center were for multiple drills spread across several months. Both were given permits use of on staff hams on December 2, 2009 plus January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2 of 2010. The FCC also opened to door to granting further dates and additional hams by filing a separate waiver request.

The FCC issued its first waiver of 97.113(a)(3) back on October 27th to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for a full-scale exercise on October 28th. In granting all of these waivers the FCC stated that it was in the public's interest to do so. (FCC)

**

RADIO POLITICS: IARU SAYS TO GET READY FOR WRC-12

The next World Radiocommunications Conference takes place in January of 2012 and ham radio is making ready to face any challenges that it might bring to the service.

The International Amateur Radio Union's Secretary is Rod Stafford, W6ROD. He says that every IARU member society capable of doing so, should take the initiative to be in contact with their own telecommunications administration and let the it know what the Union's position is on those agenda items that influence the amateur radio service.

The most significant of these so far are the implementation of the radiolocation service in the range 30 to 300 MHz; the possible allocations in the range 3 to 50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications and the effect of emissions from short-range devices.

Also likely to be discussed is a ham radio allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band from 415 to 526.5 kHz. This, on a secondary basis and taking into account the need to protect existing services. (Southgate)

**

RESCUE RADIO: UK HAMS WILL REPLACE PHONES IF CALVA BRIDGE FALLS

Preparations have been made to use amateur radio instead of telephones for calls to the emergency services. This if the Calva bridge near the United Kingdom city Cumbria collapses due to flooding. The North Pennines RAYNET Group website says should the bridge fall that it will be called out to cover 999 calls and this will be 24 hours a day operation until other lines of communications can be re-established.

According to a Cumbria County Council news release, if a collapse of the bridge takes place telephone communications would be lost to around 3,000

homes north of the river. To maintain communications to that area it says that ham radio operators will be available at certain locations to pass on calls to the various emergency services. Telephone service to the community affected is carried by cables that span the bridge. Ehile British Telecom believes alternate lines could handle any calls, the RAYNET hams are prepared for a full scale callout if they are needed.

In other U-K flood related news, the North Pennines RAYNET group, supported by RAYNET members from Merseyside, Lancashire and Dumfries & Galloway manned a single radio link from Friday morning, November 27th. It was set up between North Workington and Carlisle to provide resilience for 999 calls following the localized failure of British Telecom's cables due the Northside bridge collapse. The requirement for this finished at 15.30 U-T-C the following day when all lines were restored. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N5NBI repeater serving New Orleans Louisiana.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: ARRL VS MUSTANG OKLAHOMA ON TRANSMISSION BAN

Mustang, Oklahoma officials have yet to respond to a letter from ARRL Attorney Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD. This, regarding the city's attempt to keep a ham radio operators from transmitting. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

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The Mustang News on-line newspaper says that back on November 6th, ARRL General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay sent a seven page letter to Mustang city officials In it he urged the city to rescind a certified letter officials sent to Mustang Heights resident John Ripley, KD5WFT on October 30th. That letter told Ripley to stop transmitting from his radio tower.

The city claimed that has jurisdiction over transmissions made by hams based on an ordinance that it enacted in 2000. That law states that any tower, or antenna, not more than 70 feet in height can be owned and operated by a federally licensed amateur radio station operator if it is used exclusively as a receive only facility.

But that law appears to be in direct conflict with the Federal Communications Commission's long standing concept of Federal preemption. That's the mandate that it and only it has jurisdiction over radio transmission.

In his letter Imlay noted that all radio and telecommunications are regulated by the Communications Act of 1934 and cited a half dozen federal cases supporting this position. One was a 1936 lawsuit titled Fisher's Blend Station vs. Tax Commission of the State of Washington. In that action the Supreme Court held that by its very nature broadcasting transcends state lines and is national in its scope and importance. This characteristics said the court brings it within the purpose and protection, and subject to the control, of the commerce clause.

In his letter Imlay wrote that if no action was taken by Mustang that the ARRL would seek a "declaratory ruling" from the Federal Communications Commission. According to the news article Imlay said that if he does not receive a response from Mustang city officials that plans to send another before filing with the FCC.

City Manager Mike Rutledge told the on-line newspaper that he had received Imlay's letter and had referred it to Mustang's attorney. He said any response to the letter is up to the city's legal counsel.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

--

If the ARRL decides to bring the matter before the FCC and if the agency grants such a declaratory ruling, it would likely at minimum direct the city to rescind its letter banning Ripley from transmitting. It could also go as far as warning the city that it had best keep out of matters that are preempted by Federal government mandate. (MustingNews.info)

**

RADIO LAW: KEEN EYED HAM HELPS CRAFT ANTENNA ORDENANCE

New regulations for antennas and transmission towers in Dixon, California should not affect amateur radio operators there. This, thanks to a keen eyed local ham who took notice of a proposed ordinance under consideration by the Dixon City Council and made his voice heard.

In May, during a public hearing before the Planning Commission, Dixon resident Bill Paul, KD6JUI, voiced a concern about how a proposed ordinance to set standards regarding antennas and transmission towers might affect ham radio operators in the area. He was also concerned, according to a staff report, that a zoning ordinance that limits the area an antenna or tower can cover, might affect the type or height of antennas a ham radio operator could construct.

Commissioners recommended that the City Council adopt the proposed ordinance, subject to staff working with Paul to try and address the issues. During it's last meeting, the council tentatively approved the ordinance subject to staff removing any regulations that apply to amateur radio antennas. (Vacaville Reporter)

**

RADIO LAW: UK TOWNSHIP OK'S 11 METER HIGH HAM RADIO TOWER

Meantime, some good antenna related news for a ham in Stetton In the U.K.. That's where an amateur radio tower mast which is more than 11 meters high has been given the go ahead by town planners.

Members of Stretton Parish Council had objected to the proposed tower and antenna based on visual impact when the mast was raised. There were also four objections from the ham operators neighbors who claimed it would be out of keeping with the area and could interfere with TV reception in the area.

But the committee was given expert evidence that U.K. telecommunications regulator Ofcom is the agency with jurisdiction over the antenna and that therefore it should not be a consideration. The Radio Society of Great Britain told the planners that the installation of the hams tower and antenna could be of value to the area for use in emergency situations.

After hearing that when retracted that the tower will only be about 5 meters high and weighing all the other evidence before it, the borough council's development control committee backed the plans. An 11 meter high
tower is roughly 36 feet here in the USA. (Southgate)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: ICOM CONFIRMS IC-706 PRODUCTION HAS NOT CEASED

Contrary to Internet rumors production of the popular IC 706 Mark 2 G has not ceased. The erroneous report of the radio's demise came in a Wireless Institute of Australia news report that said that the 706 was no longer being made and that Navcom Electronics that there are only 14 units currently held in stock in Australia.

While that might be the case down-under, Amateur Radio Newsline has received word from Icom America that the decision to stop selling the IC - 706 was likely a one made by Icom Australia. On this side of the Pacific Icom America says that the IC - 706 MK 2 G will continue in the Icom America product line.

The original IC-706 was introduced over a dozen years ago and quickly developed what might best be described as a cult following. The radio was not all that much bigger than a dual-band FM transceiver of that era, but it packed an amazingly sensitive all band receiver and powerful transmitter ham band transmitter into a relatively tiny package measuring only 6.56" x 2.28" x 7.88".

Over the years the IC-706 has seen many upgrades. The latest version is the Mark II G which adds many new features and capabilities not found in the previous 706 and 706Mk II versions including the UT-106 DSP module as a standard feature. Many hams called it the perfect mobile and portable station and stayed with it even after rival manufacturers brought out their own tiny all band transceivers with similar or even more advanced features. Its also a radio with one of the highest resale values on the used equipment market.

Also included in the WIA story was a claim that Icom was instituting a five year warranty on all of its products. Well that's true only if you live in
Australia. According to Icom America, That is an Icom Australia only project. No other Icom distributor is offering a 5 year warranty. (ARNewsline(tm))

**

RADIO BUSINESS: VK FIRM GENESIS TO OFFER HAM RADIO SDR TRANSCEIVER KIT

Made in Australia may be the label on the next piece of ham gear you buy. This as a company down-under called Genesis Radio announces that it will be producing a new multi-band low power Software Defined Radio transceiver kit to be available world-wide.

The Genesis G59 transceiver will cover the amateur bands from 1.8 to 54 MHz and produce up to 10 watts output when coupled with the GPA10 amplifier. A version with extended band coverage, the G59D that covers the increasingly popular pan-European 70 MHz band should be available sometime next year as well.

More information on this new Australian ham radio transceiver kit available at www.genesisradio.com.au. (Press release)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: THREE INCUMBENT ARRL SM'S RE-ELECTED

Three incumbent ARRL Section Managers were re-elected in races that concluded on Tuesday, November 24th. In Alabama, Jay Isbell, KA4KUN out polled challenger Les Rayburn, N1LF by a vote of 513 votes to 167.

Meantime, up in the Alaska Section Manager election, Jim Larsen, AL7FS, of Anchorage, won his second two-year term of office when he received 176 votes. His challenger David Stevens, KL7EB, received only 65.

Lastly, Ron Cowan, KB0DTI, will continue as Kansas Section Manager after he received 382 votes while challenger Joseph Plankinton, WD0DMV, received only 175.

Eight other Section Managers ran unopposed and were declared re-elected. All begin their new terms of office on January 1, 2010. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: WA2HWV VIDEO TOUR OF THE VOA TRANSMITTER SITE A

Jim Hawkins, WA2WHV, says that he has uploaded a video of my 1998 tour of Voice of America Transmitter Plant 'A' to YouTube .

Jim says that the title is "Tour of Voice of America Transmitter Plant" and is hosted by Carl Lineberger, former senior technician. In it you will see a lot of the heavy iron that brings V-O-A programming to the world. This includes the giant 500,000 watt Marconi and Continental transmitters as well as some lower power units by Technical Materials Corporation and

General Electric. In the case of the GE transmitter lower power means 250,000 watt capability.

According to WA2WHV the show runs 40 minutes and is broken into 5 parts. You can search for it using the find feature on the YouTube website by inputting the search argument "Tour of Voice of America or Transmitter Plant" or simply "Voice of America Transmitter." Jim adds that he hopes you enjoy taking the video tour. (Southgate)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DR. JERRY SEVICK, W2FMI - S.K.

One of ham radio's most prolific writers has become a silent key. This with word that Dr. Jerry Sevick, W2FMI, passed away on Sunday, November 29th at age 90.

Jerry Sevick, was a graduate of Wayne State University and a member of its Athletic Hall of Fame. He was drafted by both the Chicago Bears and Detroit Lions, but did not play professional football. He served as a pilot in the US Army Air Corps in WWII. He later graduated from Harvard University, with a doctorate in Applied Physics. He then taught at Wayne State University and worked as the local weather forecaster at WXYZ TV in Detroit. Dr. Sevick also worked for Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey and retired as the Director of Technical Relations. He was also a member of the New
Providence Amateur Radio Club.

It was his interest in amateur radio that launched Dr. Sevick into experiments with short vertical antennas and broadband matching networks. He is noted for a classic series on short vertical antennas that appeared in QST magazine. His April 1978 article on short ground-radial systems now serves as the world's standard for earth conductivity measurements.

In the course of designing networks to match coaxial cable to short ground mounted vertical antennas, the transmission line transformer was looked at as a possible vehicle. He undertook the characterization and design of transformers for low impedance applications. This resulted in his book Transmission Line Transformers, first published in 1990 by the ARRL and currently available from Noble Publishing. He also presented a series on baluns in Communications Quarterly and a series on unbalanced to unbalanced transformers in CQ magazine. The latter was lead to his book titled

Building and Using Baluns and Ununs that was published by CQ in 2003.

Dr. Sevick was a Technical Advisor for the ARRL and a member of IEEE, Sigma Xi, Sigma Pi, Sigma and Phi Delta Kappa. A memorial service was scheduled for December 2nd at the Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. (Information supplied by KT1B, K9AY, K2SSQ, CQ Magazine, bytemark.com, others)

**

HAM HAPPENINGS: ANNUAL VOIP CONFERENCE IN LAS VEGAS

The 2010 Voice over Internet Protocol Conference will take place on Saturday, April 10th at the Circus-Circus Conference Area in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The event is sponsored by Nevada Amateur Radio Repeaters, Inc. which began it in 2002 as the Internet Radio Linking Project or IRLP was starting to grow world wide. Nowadays the conference is open to all forms of VoIP communications, including IRLP, Echo link, D-Star, All Star Link, and various other associated applications.

The conference starts at 8:30 a.m. and runs until to 5 p.m. local Las Vegas time. Those interested in presenting a topic should let that be known as they register. Questions to w7aor(at) narri (dot) org. More information about the event along with registration forms are on-line at www.narri.org/voip_registration.html (W7AOR, others)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: TIME SHARING ON SO-67

Controllers of the SO-67 SumbandilaSat ham radio transponder are looking for input on the best way to utilize the new ham radio bird. This, because it is a shared payload that cannot be in operation all of the time.

In an effort to make this as painless as possible, SO-67 controller Jan Albert, ZR1AJK, is requesting comments on the possible use of regional coordinators to schedule access to SumbandilaSat. Coordinators would be responsible for setting up agenda's in advance for their specific regions. This, while taking into account the pool of possible satellite passes, as well as the need of the bird for local events. The SO-67 Command Station would then simply load the schedules on a weekly basis.

Initial focus has on Europe, the Republic of South Africa, South and North America including Canada, Japan and Australia, and New Zealand. Now, ZR1JAK is inviting suggestions for amateur radio use of the SumbandilaSat as it flies over other regions as well.

Interested satellite operators are invited to e-mail responses to the AMSAT bulletin board, or if you prefer, to ZR1JAK's work address: jak "at" sunspace "dot" co "dot" za. (Amsat News, ZR1JAK)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SPECIAL EVENT STATION COMMEMORATES LAUNCH OF XW-1 HAMSAT

To celebrate the launch of China's first amateur satellite called XW-1, AMSAT-China has set up a special event station using the callsign BT3WX. Operations at BT3WX have already commenced and the special event station will remain active until XW-1 is launched. The station plans to operate on all High Frequency amateur bands from 10 to 160 meters and on VHF and UHF amateur satellite bands. On satellites the modes include FM, SSB, CW, RTTY and PACSAT.

A specific launch date for XW-1 has not been released as but is expected in mid-December. The satellite's communications payload will include a beacon and three cross band transponders operating in FM, linear, and digital modes.

Meantime stations completing two-way communications with BT3WX on 9 different bands and modes can apply for the BT3WX H-F Communications Award. Stations completing two-way communications with BT3WX through at least two different modes of transponders can apply for the BT3WX Satellite Communications Award. (ANS)

**

HAM RADION IN SPACE: STRAIGHT KET NIGHT ON OSCAR 2010

AMSAT is inviting hams worldwide to participate in Straight Key Night on OSCAR 2010. Taking part in this event is both fun and quite easy. Just operate CW through any OSCAR satellite between 0000 and 2400 UTC on January 1st 2010, using a straight hand key. There are no other rules, no scoring and no need to send in a log.

In keeping with the friendly nature of this event, all participants are encouraged to nominate someone they worked for "Best Fist" of those you worked. Please send your nomination to w2rs@amsat.org. A list of those nominated will appear in the Amsat News Service and will also be published in the AMSAT Journal. (W2RS, ANS)

**

DX

In D-X word that Willis Island is back on the air. David Burton reports that he has been assigned to the Bureau of Meteorology station on Willis for the next 6 months and will be operating with the call-sign VK9WBM. His station consists of a Icom IC-718 and an Alinco DX70. He will be activating the HF bands and 6 meters using a 2 element quad. QSL via VK4DMC.

K7WZB and K9WZB will be operating as K2V from the island of St. Croix from December 2nd to the 14th. They will use 160 through 6 meters and will be monitoring 6 most of the time for openings to the United States and Europe. Modes available will be SSB, RTTY, CW and PSK-31 on all bands. QSL via K9WZB, direct only. Further info at QRZ.com under the callsign K2V.

M0JAX is looking for 22 people with a full amateur radio license privileges to join a DXpedition to Bahrain in Leaving in February 2011. He is planning a two week trip based at the InterContinental hotel with eight stations on the air 24 hours a day. Operators will be working in three shifts to keep the stations on the air for the two weeks. I you are interested, send your details and why you think you would be an asset to this DXpedition to the Radio Society of Great Britain and attention RadCom Magazine. Your letters will be passed-on to M0JAX.

The S2DX team is preparing for another DXpedition to St. Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal. The scheduled dates are February 21st to the 25th depending on the dates the licenses that they receive carry. This is the second DXpedition carried out by the group to the same location. They made over 3000 QSO's from there last January.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: DISABLED HAM DONATES MOBILE TO IRTS

And finally this week, in keeping with the spirit of the upcoming season comes word that the Irish Radio Transmitting Society has received a very generous donation from one of its members. A complete mobile ready to go.

The story goes this way. For health reasons EI6IJ was been forced to cease driving. Instead of putting his car up for sale he instead gifted his 2008 Kia Rio hatchback to Irelands national ham radio society. The vehicle had already been converted for disabled use and professionally outfitted out with a Yaesu FT-857 all band transceiver.

The society says that it won't actually keep the car very long. Instead it will put it up for sale with the proceeds used to assist members who for reasons of changed circumstances such as ill health or change of accommodation are finding it difficult to practice and enjoy their hobby. The monies will also support the promotion of amateur radio in schools and other youth organizations. (IRTS)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), using our temporary address of 28197 Robin Avenue, Saugus, California, 91350.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Damron, N8TMW, and I'm Jeff Clark, K8JAC, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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496. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1686 - December 4 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-05 19:12:12 UTC
From: Dave Heil <k8mn@frontiernet.net>
Message-ID: <kEwSm.35885$Sw5.5982@newsfe16.iad>
Source record: 1706
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy

William M. Pasternak wrote:
> Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1686 - December 4 2009
>
> Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1686 with a release date of
> Friday, December 4th 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

> After hearing that when retracted that the tower will only be about 5
> meters high and weighing all the other evidence before it, the borough
> council's development control committee backed the plans. An 11 meter
> high tower is roughly 36 feet here in the USA. (Southgate)

How high is it in Europe? ;-)

497. Re: Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1686 - December 4 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-06 17:51:22 UTC
From: Howard Lester <howardxtlester@verizon.net>
Message-ID: <hfgdqnpev1@news.eternal-september.org>
Source record: 1707

"Dave Heil" wrote

>> After hearing that when retracted that the tower will only be about 5
>> meters high and weighing all the other evidence before it, the borough
>> council's development control committee backed the plans. An 11 meter
>> high tower is roughly 36 feet here in the USA. (Southgate)

> How high is it in Europe? ;-)

About the same -- but with a different accent.

498. K0NEB Joins CQ Magazine as Contributing Editor

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-07 15:49:56 UTC
From: ARRL NE Section <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091207140602.0C02E32757F@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1708
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.equipment,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.info

Well, good news and bad news -- the good news first. I want to let you know that I completed my graduate program at UNL successfully. It's been a dream of mine for nearly 4 decades to finish my doctorate. So you may now refer to me as Dr. K�AIZ. However, I prefer Art. The bad news is that I've run out of the "I'm busy with school" excuse. The six weeks of September/October I spent in California dealing with the illness and death of my mother took its toll on trying to complete the degree. So the time since her passing has consisted of 15 to 20 hour days trying to catch up on finishing a dissertation and preparing for a final defense oral exam. I hope I didn't cause too much consternation while I was distracted.

At the top of my "I really needed to" list is one of the more pleasurable things I put off. That is to recognize the dedication, talent, and insight offered by one of our own. Joe Eisenberg, K�NEB, is well known as a ham, an expert in kit building, and a photographer. He has given many presentations on kit building and the technical aspects of ham radio in venues ranging from club meetings to conventions. His enthusiasm is unmatched and the skill he brings to his endeavors is phenomenal.

CQ magazine noticed that, too. I am very pleased to acknowledge that Joe is now a contributing editor for the magazine. He is writing a column called "Kit Building" for each issue. I think you will find his columns interesting and well worth the time to read. I've been building electronics almost since Marconi twisted two wires together (or at least I feel that way sometime) and I find things to learn from Joe.

Congratulations, Joe. You are an asset to the Section, a great contributor to the hobby, and a wonderful friend to have.

I'll be playing more catch-up soon. Until then, enjoy winter, the hobby, and your family.

73,
Art K�AIZ

ARRL Nebraska Section
Section Manager: Arthur I. Zygielbaum, K0AIZ
k0aiz@arrl.org
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499. The ARRL Letter for December 10, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-10 20:57:46 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091210205714.4CD41B35534@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1709
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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**********************************************
The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
**********************************************

December 10, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

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- + Spotlight on Amateur Radio: Major Computer Publication Devotes
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- + Scott Robbins, W4PA, to Purchase Vibroplex
- + Organizational: Marc Tarplee, N4UFP, Appointed South Carolina
Section Manager
- The Doctor Is IN: Focusing on 10 Meters
- + Regulatory: FCC Dismisses Two Petitions
- + Now You Know!: The ARRL 10 Meter Contest and Satellites
- + Silent Key: Ambassador William A. Wilson, K6ARO (SK)
- Solar Update
- This Week on the Radio

+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: UTAH HAMS COORDINATE RESCUE

In areas where cell phone signals just won't work, Amateur Radio
gets through. That's what Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, of North Logan, Utah,
found out just before noon on Wednesday, December 2: He came across a
dairy truck that had crashed and rolled over in the Logan River as he
drove on Route 89 through Logan Canyon. As 38,000 pounds of dairy
products were spilling into the Logan River, Yeates waded through the
cold river to help get the driver out of the truck's cab and then put
out a call on his handheld transceiver. Read more here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/07/11235/?nc=1>.

==> + SPOTLIGHT ON AMATEUR RADIO: MAJOR COMPUTER PUBLICATION DEVOTES
JANUARY 2010 ISSUE TO AMATEUR RADIO

Emergencies may get all the attention in the press, but lately, the
technological side of Amateur Radio has been showing up a lot in places
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that are read by the people who make next year's trends. Hams indeed are technical and creative people, consummate MacGyvers. To kick off the new year, the computer magazine Linux Journal has come out with an entire issue dedicated to Amateur Radio and the creative uses of open source computer programs. This 80 page issue features Tux, the Linux mascot on its cover wearing a pair of headphones, holding a microphone -- and even sporting an Emergency Coordinator badge around his neck -- hooked up to an HF transceiver. The issue has headlines on the cover such as "Amateur Radio and Linux -- Open Source for the New Generation," and "Get Started with Amateur Radio," and includes articles like "When All Else Fails -- Amateur Radio, the Original Open-Source Project" by David Lane, KG4GIY. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/12/09/11239/?nc=1>.

==> + SCOTT ROBBINS, W4PA, TO PURCHASE VIBROPLEX

Scott Robbins, W4PA, of Knoxville, Tennessee, told the ARRL that he has signed an agreement to purchase The Vibroplex Company, Inc from present owner Felton "Mitch" Mitchell, W4OA, effective December 21, 2009. "Vibroplex represents the great tradition of CW operation in Amateur Radio going back many, many years," Robbins told the ARRL. "I'm tickled to be able to continue the more than 100 years of history that has gone into this company." Robbins -- who has been employed with Ten-Tec Inc since 1995 (he has been Product Manager for Ten-Tec's Amateur Radio equipment line since 1997) -- will leave his position in mid-December to take over full-time management and ownership of Vibroplex. "It's a great opportunity to continue the more than 100 years of tradition that the Vibroplex name represents," Robbins said. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/07/11233/?nc=1>.

==> ARRL PUBLICATIONS: ARRL LICENSING STUDY GUIDES -- COMING TO AN EBOOK READER NEAR YOU

ARRL is pleased to announce that owners of Kindle <http://www.amazon.com/Kindle> -- an electronic book reader sold by Amazon.com <http://www.amazon.com/> -- can now download ARRL's Tech Q&A <http://www.amazon.com/ARRLs-Tech-Q-A-ebook/dp/B002YNSBNE/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1259944328&sr=8-2-catcorr>
directly from the online bookseller for use on their Kindle. Kindle is shaped much like a book with a paper-like screen that displays text and pictures. Those who have the Kindle application installed on their Apple <http://www.apple.com/> iPhone <http://www.apple.com/iphone/> or iPod touch <http://www.apple.com/ipodtouch/> can also download the book for use on these devices. When you download the Tech Q&A, you can gain access quickly and easily, smoothing the path to your first ham radio license. This ideal study tool -- whether you're at home, in the office, traveling or just on the go -- lets you review the questions and answers from the entire Technician question pool so you can pass the 35-question exam. Kindle versions of the General Q&A and the Amateur Extra Q&A will be available sometime in January. All three can be purchased from Amazon.com for $9.99 each.

==> + ORGANIZATIONAL: MARC TARPLEE, N4UFP, APPOINTED SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION MANAGER

Marc Tarplee, N4UFP, of Rock Hill, has been appointed the new ARRL South Carolina Section Manager. He will complete the term of Jim Boehner, N2ZZ, who was elected ARRL Roanoke Division Vice Director last month. When Boehner announced that he was stepping down from the Section Manager post he has held since January 2003, he recommended Tarplee, the South Carolina Section Technical Coordinator, for the position. Tarplee and Boehner both take on their new positions January 1, 2010. According to the Rules and Regulations of the ARRL Field Organization, when a vacancy in the office of Section Manager occurs between elections, the position is filled by appointment by the Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager in consultation with that Division's Director. MVP Manager Dave Patton, NN1N, consulted with Roanoke Division Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF. Tarplee has been South Carolina's Technical Coordinator for almost seven years, first appointed by Boehner in January 2003. Tarplee's term of office as Section Manager will continue through December 31, 2010.

==> THE DOCTOR IS IN: FOCUSING ON 10 METERS

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

Now with the ARRL 160 Meter Contest come and gone, it's time for me to focus on the opposite end of the HF spectrum: 10 meters. You guessed it -- I'm gearing up for the 37th running of the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. This contest has a bit of a twist to it: Operators have the choice of using CW only, SSB only or they can mix it up and use both. So as I prepare this week for the 'test, I went to ask the Doctor what is so special about 10 meters. Is there anything I need to be aware of and watch out for this weekend? Check up on what the Doctor has to say here <http://www.arrl.org/news/features/2009/12/09/11238/?nc=1>.

==> + REGULATORY: FCC DISMISSES TWO PETITIONS

On Wednesday, December 9, the Federal Communications Commission dismissed two separate Petitions for Rulemaking. The first Petition was filed by Murray Green, K3BEQ, concerning the operation of repeater stations in the Amateur Service. The other Petition, filed by Glen Zook, K9STH, requested amending Section 97.119(a) to change how often stations must identify themselves. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/10/11241/?nc=1>.

==> + NOW YOU KNOW!: THE ARRL 10 METER CONTEST AND SATELLITES

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

This weekend marks the 37th running of the ARRL 10 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html>. Back in November 1973 when the contest was first announced in QST <http://p1k.arrl.org/cgi-bin/topdf.cgi?id=62388&pub=qst>, the rules differed slightly from how they stand now. This event began due to the interest that radio amateurs showed in the 10 meter band, thanks to the

5-band awards offered by the ARRL. "Occupancy is an important issue of the day as is proof that there's life in the old band yet," the article stated. "At a recent convention the matter was raised and met with enthusiastic response. Rather than postpone the idea for another year, the consensus was 'let's give it a try for '73,' prompting a recommendation by the Contest Advisory Committee."

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/satInfo.php?satID=29&returl=satellites/history.php>
In 1973, each completed two-way QSO was worth 2 points, except QSOs with a US Novice were worth double that. The article pointed out that certain FCC-issued Novice call signs look a little strange: "Novices in KZ5 and KG4 have strange call signs -- a Canal Zone Novice has an 'N' at the end of the call, such as KZ5AAN. A Novice in Guantanamo Bay has an 'N' after the number, such as KG4NAA. All others replace the K with a W (i.e. WL7, WH6, etc.). If you work a station once on cw you can work him again on phone. Oscar QSOs also count."

Oscar QSOs? As in the satellite? Yes! The 1973 rules stated that "Oscar 6 contacts may be counted. All cw QSOs must take place between 28.0-28.5 MHz except those made though Oscar 6." The article also advised contest participants to stay clear of 29.45-29.55 MHz, as these were the Oscar downlink frequencies. Beginning in 1973 and continuing through 1979, QSOs made via the Oscar satellites counted for credit in the ARRL 10 Meter Contest. Beginning in 1980, after 10 meters had seemingly come back to life, the CAC no longer accepted the QSOs for credit in the contest. Now you know!

==> + SILENT KEY: AMBASSADOR WILLIAM A. WILSON, K6ARO (SK)

William A. "Bill" Wilson, K6ARO -- the first US Ambassador to the Holy See (the Vatican) -- passed away from cancer early on the morning of Saturday, December 5. He was 95. First appointed as presidential envoy to Rome in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan, Wilson was appointed the first full ambassador to the Holy See in 1984, once official relations were established, serving until 1986. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/07/11234/?nc=1>.

==> SOLAR UPDATE

<http://sohowww.nascom.nasa.gov/data/realtime/realtime-update.html>
Tad "When I behold, upon the night's starr'd face <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/whenihavefears.html>" Cook, K7RA, reports: Finally! A sunspot appeared on Wednesday, December 9, giving us a daily sunspot number of 13 -- this followed 16 days of no sunspots. The new group is number 1034, and need we say it is a Solar Cycle 24 spot? Cycle 24 spots were news at one time, but we haven't seen a Solar Cycle 23 spot since number 1016 on April 29-30, 2009. Solar Cycle 23 peaked around 8-9 years ago. Excitement builds for this weekend's ARRL 10 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html>. Will sunspot activity amount to enough to enhance 10 meter propagation? The latest

prediction shows a rising solar flux, 74 and 75 on December 10-11 and 77 from December 12-16; this must correspond to the new sunspot swinging into view, instead of peeking over the horizon as it did on Wednesday. Even without sunspots, Geminids meteor showers <http://meteorshowersonline.com/geminids.html> have intensified with each passing year as Earth moves deeper into the debris stream from extinct comet 3200 Phaethon <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3200_Phaethon>. The predicted peak of the meteor shower is about five hours after the end of the contest and there is a good chance that ionized comet trails could enhance 10 meter propagation this weekend. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, December 11. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/whenihavefears.html>.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

This week, the ARRL 10 Meter Contest <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html> is December 12-13. The Feld Hell Sprint is December 12. The MDXA PSK DeathMatch and the International Naval Contest are December 12-13. The NA High Speed Meteor Scatter Winter Rally is December 12-16. The SKCC Weekend Sprint and the CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run are December 13. Next week, the Russian 160 Meter Contest is December 18. The OK DX RTTY Contest is December 19. The Croatian CW Contest is December 19-20 and the Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party Is December 19-January 3. The ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint is December 20, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is December 21 and the SKCC Sprint is December 23. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> + ARRL HEADQUARTERS CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

ARRL Headquarters will be closed Friday, December 25, 2009 and Friday, January 1, 2010 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day. There will be no W1AW bulletins <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/> or code practice transmissions <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked> those days. There will be no ARRL Letter <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/> or ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> on Thursday, December 24 and 31. We wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season and a prosperous 2010.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, December 27, 2009, for these online course sessions <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/> beginning on Friday, January 8, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

500. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1687 - December 11 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-10 23:14:13 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091210150946.0344d8d0@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1710
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1687 - December 11 2009

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1687 with a release date of
Friday, December 11th 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC again denies a petition aimed at
outlawing closed and private repeaters, a Utah ham is first on scene at
a rollover accident, the Wireless Institute of Australia says it will
start training V- hams in rescue radio operations and amateur radio
pays homage to a great World War 2 fighting machine of the sea. Find
out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1687 coming
your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO LAW: FCC SAYS NO TO ANOTHER PETITION TO OUTLAW CLOSED AND
PRIVATE REPEATERS

Another petition to the FCC aimed at outlawing closed and private
repeaters has been denied by the FCC. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill
Pasternak, WA6ITF, takes an in depth look at this story:

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Like everyone who had tried before him, Maury Green, K3BEQ, had the best of
intentions when he filed his rules change request. A request aimed at
banning repeater owners from barring anyone from using a repeater other
than hams who would use the system to blatantly violate the FCC rules.

But good intentions are not the stuff that radio rules are made of and on
December 8th the FCC once again made it clear that it is not going to
involve itself even remotely in the political or social aspect of owning
and operating a repeater. Nor is it going to tell a repeater owner
operator whom he or she must have his system repeat.

In his petition for rule making filed several month ago Green had asked the
FCC to amend Section 97.205(e) of its Rules. This, to prohibit a repeater
station licensee or control operator from limiting the use of a repeater to
only certain user stations, unless a user blatantly violates the
Commission's Rules.

Green argued that Section 97.205(e), which permits a repeater station
licensee or control operator to limit the use of a repeater to certain user
stations, conflicts with Section 97.101(b). That rule states that no
frequency is for the exclusive use of a particular amateur station, and

each station licensees must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies.

But in what might best be described as a cookie-cutter decision not unlike responses to similar requests going back more than 30 years, the FCC flatly disagreed. As in the past, the regulatory agency once again stated that Section 97.205(e) does not establish an exclusive assignment of a frequency to a repeater. And with regard to Green's contention that a coordinated closed repeater has exclusive control of an amateur service frequency, the FCC again noted that coordination is not required as a condition of operating a repeater.

The FCC went on to note that coordination does not and cannot result in assignment or establish control of an amateur service channel, and nothing in the rules prohibits other amateur stations from using the channels for which a repeater has been coordinated when they are not being used by the repeater. Rather, Section 97.205(e) merely enables a repeater licensee or control operator to control the repeater, so that he or she can ensure the repeater is properly operated as required by Section 97.105(a). Accordingly, says the FCC there is no conflict between the rules, and no grounds for the Commission to propose to amend Section 97.105(a).

So what about operating on a repeaters input or output frequency when it is not in use. Well a quick history lesson is in order. Back in the early days of repeater rules the FCC required system owners to have lock-out receivers listening to the output frequency. These receivers would inhibit the repeater transmitter from coming on if the output frequency was in use.

When repeaters were deregulated in the mid-1970's the lock-out receivers were deemed to be unnecessary. Instead the FCC simply said that it expected hams to use common sense when using a repeater input or output for other than repeater purposes. It said that if you operate simplex on a repeater input you might be repeated whether you want to or not. It also inferred that if you operate simplex on a repeater output and got clobbered by the repeater transmitter to not complain to the FCC. Again the agency expected hams to have enough common sense to know this might happen and find other frequencies on which to operate. And that's been the unofficial rule of thumb for over three decades.

So what does this most recent decision mean to the average ham? In reality not very much. With the exception of Southern California, closed and private repeaters make up less than 1% of the nations total of machines. Also, most of the time those hams who are excluded from operating on a particular system have been asked to leave after the system owner or his control operators find that he or she is disruptive to the normal flow of repeater traffic. In other words they were ordered to leave and to date the FCC has backed every repeater owner who has asked enforcement assistance in keeping unwanted users off their machines.

Is this the end of it? Likely not. In another two or three years another well meaning ham will likely file a similar request to ban closed and private repeaters. Unless he or she cab come up with a far more compelling argument than has Maury Green, K3BEQ, and those who petitioned in the past, its likely that request will also fall on deaf FCC ears. In this area of the Part 97 rules, history does have a way of repeating itself.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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As far as we can tell, this is the 9th or 10th attempt at getting the FCC to prohibit a repeater licensee from restricting access to a repeater to those whom he or she wants to be filed the last three decades. And as in all past attempts, this one has met with failure as well. (FCC with historic background from Looking West archive.)

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RADIO RULES: FCC SAYS NO TO MODIFYING STATION ID RULES

The FCC has also denied a rules change request filed by Glen Zook, K9STH, of Richardson, Texas. Zook had request that Section 97.119(a) of the Commission's Rules be amended to incorporate certain portions of the Commission's former station identification rule so as to assure that hams properly identified their stations at specific times.

Back in 2006, Zook filed a petition requesting that the Commission amend the Amateur service rules to incorporate certain portions of the FCC's earlier station identification rule. This would include requiring that the call sign be transmitted at the beginning of each transmission or series of transmissions.

In response, the Commission received approximately one hundred comments, generally opposing the Zook petition. And in 2007 the FCC dismissed this petition, concluding that the requested rule changes were not necessary and were not supported by the amateur radio community.

Zook filed again on April 7, 2009. After considering his latest request for some nine months the FCC concluded that his present Petition does not assert or demonstrate that circumstances have changed since 2007 with respect to the adequacy of the current station identification rule. It went on to note that his current proposal, like his previous petition, does not demonstrate that revising the station identification requirement would address the concern that many amateur radio operators do not identify their station in a timely manner or at all.

In its dismissal order the FCC says that this is really a matter better addressed by enforcement of the present rule rather than a rule change. If he desires to do so Zook has the option to file an appeal. (FCC)

**

RESCUE RADIO: HAMS ASSIST AT UTAH DAIRY TRUCK CRASH

Amateur radio was first on the scene on Wednesday, December 2nd. This, after a dairy truck crashed near Logan, Utah, and rolled into the Logan River.

According to the Logan Herald Journal, Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, happened across the accident scene and stopped to help. With cellular telephone service sparse at best Yates used a local repeater to contact Brent Carruth, AD7VF in Logan. Carruth listened to Yeates give a first-hand account of the condition of the driver and the seriousness of the crash. He then notified authorities which dispatched assistance to the scene.

The accident occurred on Utah Route 89 as it passed through Logan Canyon. The semi-trailer was filled with 38,000 pounds of dairy products much of which was leaked into the river. More is on-line http://hjnews.townnews.com/articles/2009/12/06/news/news04-12-06-09.txt (HJ News)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N5KKG repeater of the Laurel Amateur Radio Club serving Laurel Mississippi.

(5 sec pause here)

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RESCUE RADIO: WIA TO DEVELOP RESCUE RADIO TRAINING COURSE

The Board of Directors of the Wireless Institute of Australia says its time for an organized effort to train VK hams in rescue radio techniques. Robert Broomhead, VK3DN, has the details from down-under:

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During 2009 the Wireless Institute of Australia has been considering training of amateurs for activities associated with emergency communications preparedness. In the July and September issues of Amateur Radio magazine, the WIA Comment focussed on issues surrounding amateur operator emergency
communications, training and general preparedness.

From the feedback received, the Board considered that a national accredited training system was an essential element in the broad range of issues associated with emergency communications provided by amateur operators.

In association with the WIA' s Recognized Training Organization (RTO), TrainSafe, a nationally recognized training package has now been developed. The WIA Board has prepared a statement on "where it is at" in
the development of the training package and a summary of feedback and

issues.

I'm Robert, VK3DN

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For those interested, the statement and attachments that Robert referred to can be found when you visit wia.org.au (WIA News)

**

RESTRUCTURING: INDIA GRANTS HAMS 30 METERS

Hams in India have received government permission to permanently operate on 30 meters on a secondary basis, though not all details of the new allocation are yet known.

India's hams had previously been granted experimental access to 30 meters for a one-month period between August 31st and September 30th of 2007. At that time, A1A and J3E modes with 100 watts maximum were allowed between 10.100 and 10.150 MHz.

VU2GMN has been in contact with the authorities in Delhi. He says that he is trying to clarify if SSB will be included with the permanent allocation. Australia is believed to be the only other major country allowing SSB on 10 MHz for amateur radio use in ITU Region 3. (W7VOA)

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RADIO BUSINESS: VIBROPLEX CHANGING OWNERSHIP

A famed Morse key manufacturer is changing hands. Our CW man, Frank Haas, KB4T, has the details:

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Vibroplex will have a new owner effective December 21st, 2009. Scott Robbins, W4PA, of Knoxville, Tennessee, has agreed to buy Amateur Radio's oldest manufacturer from present owner Mitch Mitchell of Mobile, Alabama who recently decided to retire. In a report detailed at arrl.org, Robbins says he will leave his post as Amateur Radio Product Manager at TenTec in Mid-December to take over and relocate Vibroplex. Newsline asked Robbins why he decided to buy the company:

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Robbins: "It was my desire to own my own business. Its something I had thought about for a number of years but the right opportunity had never presented itself until now. And its something I gave a lot of thought to once it was made known that Vibroplex was available and I decided that my time had arrived and I would go ahead and give it a shot."

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Vibroplex will move to Knoxville before the New Year. Business operations are expected to resume on January 5th, 2010. Vibroplex has been

internationally renowned for its semi-automatic keys, known by most as "bugs," for professional and amateur telegraphers since Inventor Horace Martin first created the device in 1904 as a cure for telegrapher's "glass arm," a painful condition similar to carpal tunnel syndrome. The product line expanded to include straight keys, keyer paddles and a wider variety of bugs. When asked what changes he plans for the product line, Robbins said:

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Robbins: "No changes to the current products. The changes would be that I have every intention of offering new products under the Vibroplex name in 2010 and beyond."

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The 800 number, web site and email contacts will remain the same. For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Frank Haas KB4T in Florida.

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The bottom line: Frank says that the change of ownership means that the Vibroplex side-swiper should be with us for a long time to come. (KB4T)

**

RADIO EDUCATION: NEW HF LEARNING AWARD FROM QCWA CHAPTER 119

In an effort to encourage newer amateur radio operators to enter into the mainstream of HF amateur radio the Chapter 119 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association has introduced the Worked All 10 U.S. Call Areas Award. According to the announcement this award provides an achievement goal for the new operator, or any operator beginning to explore the HF bands.

Because new hams with entry level licenses have limited access to the amateur radio bands on 160 through 10 meters, the award is unique in that it contains provisions to permit HF operation under the guidance of a mentor, or Elmer, who can, if necessary, act as a control operator. The sponsors say that becoming involved in HF operations will assist the new amateur operator to gain operating skills and to earn higher classes of license with his or her own increased operating privileges.

Full details and a sample of the award can be found on-line at the Chapter 119 web page. Its in cyberspace at qcwa-ch119.org. (QCWA)

**

RADIO POLITICS: IARU REGION 1 PAPERS POSTED TO THE WWW

Turning to ham radio politics, word that the interim meeting of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 High Frequency Committee and the VHF, UHF and Microwave Committee will take place February 19th to the 21st of 2010. This, in Vienna, Austria. The IARU Region 1 website now has the full set of HF, VHF and microwave papers for the meeting from the various

national societies. Check out www.iaru-r1.org for details. (GB2RS)

**

RADIO ON THE NET: QRZ.COM INVITES DEVELOPERS TO JOIN QRZ FLASH

The QRZ.com web team is developing an open source portable callsign database that runs on any media including USB Flash, DVD, and disk. The QRZ Flash application fits on a USB stick drive and includes an Apache server, a MySQL server, and a full Perl and PHP interpreter. All this in about 1.2 Gb of storage. Even better is that software runs right off the stick drive with no installation necessary but at the same time is easily copied to a hard drive if desired.

The project is at a point where outside volunteers are being invited to contribute to the software package. More information is on the QRZ.com website. More is on-line at http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t"8560) (QRZ.com)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: G3YJO RECEIVES EUROPEAN ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY LIFETIME AWARD

A name in the news. Martin Sweeting G3YJO, has been presented European Electronics Industry Lifetime Achievement Award. This for his dedication to research in his chosen fields of interest.

With the full title of Professor Sir Martin Sweeting, G3YJO serves as the Executive Chairman of Surrey Satellite Technology and Director of the Surrey Space Center. He was presented with the award by Richard Wilson, Editor, Electronics Weekly and Paul Briggs, Publisher, Electronics Weekly at The Lancaster London on Tuesday, December 1st. Photos of the ceremony are on-line at www.elektraawards.co.uk (ANS, Southgate)

**

NEW PRODUCTS: OH THOSE BUDTRAPS

And here is a neat and cheap product that you can use to keep those very popular ear-bud type earphones from becoming a tangled mess. BudTrap International has introduced its new BudTrap new cable management device engineered to trap ear-buds and avoid headphone tangles in your Apple iPod, Microsoft Zune or maybe your HT.

BudTrap stays attached to your earphone jack and helps you secure your ear-buds the way you want quickly. The device works with either straight or curved device jacks. The small form factor offers portable users the convenience of headphone cable management, without adding bulk to the device. This makes BudTraps a natural for hams to experiment with and find new ways to use that the manufacturer likely never dreamed of.

The new Bud-Traps are available online for less than three dollars. More information is at www.budtrap.com/ (RW)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: RESEARCHERS DEVELOP SINGLE ATOM TRANSISTOR

Researchers from Helsinki University of Technology in Finland, the University of New South Wales Australia and University of Melbourne have succeeded in building a micro-sized transistor whose active region composes only of a single phosphorus atom in silicon. The working principles of the device are based on sequential tunneling of single electrons between the phosphorus atom and the source and drain leads of the transistor. The tunneling can be suppressed or allowed by controlling the voltage on a nearby metal electrode with a width of a few tens of nanometers.

In the recently developed transistor, all the electric current passes through the same single atom. This allows researchers to study the effects arising in the extreme limit of the transistor size. The results of the development of this transistor has been published in Nano Letters. That's a journal of the American Chemical Society. (Science OnLine)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

CHANGING OF THE GUARD: WILLIAM WILSON, K6ARO, FIRST AMBASSADOR TO THE VATICAN - S.K.

We have said it far to many times of late, but the changing of the guard in amateur radio continues. This with the sad news tat William A.Wilson, K6ARO, the first US Ambassador to the Vatican has passed away at age 95.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Wilson died in his Carmel Valley, California home from complications related to cancer on Saturday, December 5th.

William Wilson was a Los Angeles businessman who became a member of President Ronald Reagan's "kitchen cabinet" early on in Reagan's career. Wilson first met the Reagan at a dinner party in the early 1960s, when the future president was still an actor. Wilson soon became a member of the inner circle of wealthy advisers who persuaded Reagan to run for governor of California in 1966 and then helped guide his political campaigns.

Soon after Ronald Reagan was sworn in as president in 1981 he named Wilson as his personal envoy to the Vatican. The United States had not had formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See since 1867, when Congress repealed funds for the consular post, citing a need to separate church and state.

In 1984, the United States reestablished official relations with the Vatican recognizing it as a sovereign body and the pope as an international statesman. At that time Wilson was elevated from personal envoy to full ambassador but was ultimately forced to resign over what news reports termed as political missteps.

William Wilson, K6ARO is survived by two daughters, , six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren .
His wife of 58 years, Elizabeth died in 1996. Funeral services were planned for Friday, December 11. In lieu of flowers donations in his name can be made to the St John's Health Center or Thomas Aquinas College. (LA Times, others)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: METEOR SCATTER OFF THE GEMINIDS

The annual Geminid meteor shower has been intensifying, and researchers say 2009 could be the best year yet. This year's display peaks on December 13th and 14th with meteor scatter enthusiasts certain to be out for magical contacts. QSO's that can only be made by bouncing their signals off of ionizing meteor trails as the space rocks burn up in the Earth's atmosphere.

For many years meteor scatter contacts were the domain of the most skilled of high speed CW operators. In more recent times digital modes such as JT2 and JT4 are superseding the use of Morse because of their ability to hear well into and below the spectrum noise floor.

JT2 uses 2-tone FSK modulation for synchronization and differential BPSK for the encoded user information. JT4 uses 4-tone FSK, so it can also include both a sync bit and a data bit in each symbol. JT2 and JT4 are both designed for making QSOs under extremely weak-signal conditions making them ideal for making meteor scatter contacts.

More about these modes can be found on-line at
http://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/JT2_JT4.TXT
(VHF Reflector)\

**

WORLDBEAT: DATE ANNOUNCED FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UK NATIONAL AR CENTER

RSGB General Manager Peter Kirby, G0TWW has announced the start date for building the new National Amateur Radio Center in the United Kingdom. The work will commence at Bletchley Park in London on January 11, 2010. Subject to favorable progress, the work is expected to finish in June.

The National Amateur Radio Center will house the United Kingdom's National Amateur Radio Heritage exhibition, the National Amateur Radio Library and the Archive the Radio Society of Great Britain. The Bletchley Park center will be open to both RSGB members and members of the public, hopefully in 2010. Further details of progress will be announced as work progresses. (GB2RS)

**

ON THE AIR: ACTIVATING HUNGARIAN PARKS

On the air, listen out for HA0HW, HG0NDZ, HA0IH, HA4DX and HA4XG. This, as they activate more Hungarian National Parks during the month of December. Look for them to using the call HG0WFF/P through months end. QSL to HA0HW via the bureau. (ICPO)

**

ON THE AIR: TUNISIA SPECIAL EVENT

The Radio Club Station of Tunisian Scouts station 3V8ST will commemorate their 10th anniversary by activating special event station 3V10A from the headquarters of Tunisian Scouts in Tunis Mahrajens. This operation will last until December 31st. QSL to the Amateur Radio Club of Tunis, P.O. Box 339, 1082, Tunisia. (Radio Club of Tunisia)

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DX

In DX, word that three hams will be taking VHF, UHF and microwave equipment on a DXpedition to Norfolk Island that is slated to run from January 3rd to the 14th of 2010. The operators involved are VK3XPD, VK4UH and VK3KH. They say that digital modes will be an integral part of their operation, and they are set up to run WSJT on all bands. Other modes include CW, SSB, FSK441 and JT65A. They will also be active on the Meteor Scatter net, and will also be happy to consider skeds at other times. QSL via VK3KH.

N8OO and NP3D operating portable HR2 from Honduras should be on the air through Dsecember 20th using CW, RTTY and SSB on all bands. N8OO also plans to take part in the 10 Meter ARRL DX Contest while NP3D wants to join the OK DX RTTY Contest as HQ2S. QSL as directed by each operator.

OE2ATN, is planning to be active Island of Velidhu as 8Q7AT between May 23rd and June 4th of 2010.
Activity will be mainly SSB on 80, 40 and 20 meters using a Yaesu FT-897D into a G5RV antenna. QSL via OE2ATN.

JA8BMK, will be active as CE0Z from Juan Fernandez Island between January 19th and February 2nd of 2010. Activity will be on 160-10 meters, with a focus on the lower bands using CW, SSB and some digital modes. QSL direct to JA8BMK.

Lastly, YV5KAJ, says via the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter that he is celebrating his 25th year in amateur radio by going on a DXpedition to the Island of Tortuga between December 26th to the 29th. He will also be using the special callsign YW5EID on 40 through 12 meters using SSB and some digital modes. The operation is also dedicated to IW5EID who introduced YV5KAJ to the hobby. QSL via EA5KB

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: HAMS WORK TO CREATE USS INDIANAPOLIS RADIO ROOM

And finally, this past week America paused to remember the attack that took place on Pearl Harbor sixty-eight years ago. One of the Navy ships that helped bring World War Two to a close was the USS Indianapolis. She was torpedoed and sunk in 1945 after delivering Atom bomb components to Tinian Island. Those parts were later used on bombs dropped on major Japanese cities.

Now, sixty four years later a group of Indianapolis amateur radio operators have re-created an operational radio room like that aboard the USS Indianapolis. Jack Parker W8ISH has the rest of the story.

--

After months of research and nearly two years of planning the USS Indianapolis radio room is on the air. This real life display is located in the World War Memorial in downtown Indianapolis.

The radio room features 67 World War Two pieces of equipment donated from people around the county. According to Chuck Christ, W9IH, they lucked out when an appeal for used Naval radio equipment caught the eye of one internet user.

--

Chuck: "We put that list of things that we wanted on an E-Bay type thing and a guy by the name of Stan Wine calls me 12-hours later from Sequaro, NM and says I have everything you want."

--

The USS Indianapolis sank in just 12 minutes after being struck by two torpedoes. There were nearly 1200 souls on board. Only 316 survived after spending four days floating in shark infested waters of the Philippine Sea.

Historians don't know if the ship's radio men ever had a chance to send an
SOS. They were on a secret mission. Today, the re-created ship's station
shows four working positions where secret messages were sent and received as the USS Indianapolis carried out it's secret mission across the Pacific.

Barry Fairfax-KW9DX, says four months of research taught them how the radio room worked.

--

Barry Fairfax: "The radio men you see here would have been receiving coded
messages from the main land or Pearl Harbor. They would type them out, the coded messages in code, then send them to the room behind us which is the

coding room where they were decoded".

--

One of those hams working the radios and giving tours is World War Two veteran Bob Begeman, W9KVK He saw duty as a naval radio man.

--

Begeman: "I was on an attack transport, APA 27, the USS George Climer, and
we had radio equipment similar to this and I was a radio technician and took care of the equipment".

--

Begeman says amateur radio operators are welcome to come visit the display and operate CW or Side-band from one of the four operating stations.

--

Christ: "This is exactly what would have been on the ship".

The call sign is WW2IND. This truly is, living history.

Reporting from Indianapolis, this is Jack Parker, W8ISH.

--

The recreated radio room is located in the World War Memorial just four blocks north of Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis. The actual memorial for the USS Indianapolis is about seven blocks away. Tours are Wednesday through Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. local Indianapolis time. Amateur Radio operators are welcome to operate the equipment when an appropriately licensed ham is acting as the guide. (W8ISH)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at our temporary mailing address of Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Ave., Saugus, California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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501. It pays to read ALL the contest rules before starting out ...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-13 18:41:55 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9CE0812303679VeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1711

I thought I'd give the 10M contest a try this year, single op, low power, CW only.

I did a quick look a the rules (http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html), got as far as

3.1.2. Low Power.
3.1.2.1. Mixed Mode (Phone and CW).
3.1.2.2. Phone only.
3.1.2.3. CW only.

and was on my way.

Didn't see anything about "assisted", so without really thinking about it, I left "Band Master" (a GUI DX cluster front end) running when I started the contest.

During one of the many lulls in the contest, I read the rest of the rules and found

3.2. Multioperator, Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only).
3.2.1. Includes single operators using packet or spotting assistance.

So, I was suddenly stuck in the Multi-op, mixed mode category.

Oh well. That's a mistake I won't make again.

Besides, the DX cluster info wasn't any sort of an "assist" for me. It was more in the line of mocking me with all the stations I couldn't even hear :-(

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

502. Ham mag

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-13 19:32:50 UTC
From: Vince <postmaster@ham-mag.com>
Message-ID: <4b24bf7d$2$704$426a74cc@news.free.fr>
Source record: 1712

Hello,

Ham-Mag, the free monthly magazine for radio amateurs is one year old.
To continue we still are looking for articles and info.
If you want to publish one article, you can have a look on the website
or send us an E-mail.
Best 73 and merry Xmas.
Vince F5SLD
http://www.ham-mag.com

503. Re: It pays to read ALL the contest rules before starting out ...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-14 06:53:19 UTC
From: poster@giganews.com
Message-ID: <l7idncUf5Zp4UbjWnZ2dnUVZ_s6dnZ2d@earthlink.com>
Source record: 1713

Bert Hyman wrote:
> I thought I'd give the 10M contest a try this year, single op, low
> power, CW only.
>
> I did a quick look a the rules
> (http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html), got as far as
>
> 3.1.2. Low Power.
> 3.1.2.1. Mixed Mode (Phone and CW).
> 3.1.2.2. Phone only.
> 3.1.2.3. CW only.
>
> and was on my way.
>
> Didn't see anything about "assisted", so without really thinking about
> it, I left "Band Master" (a GUI DX cluster front end) running when I
> started the contest.
>
> During one of the many lulls in the contest, I read the rest of the
> rules and found
>
> 3.2. Multioperator, Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only).
> 3.2.1. Includes single operators using packet or spotting assistance.
>
> So, I was suddenly stuck in the Multi-op, mixed mode category.
>
> Oh well. That's a mistake I won't make again.

Ouch!

In ARRL and CQ contests you can reasonably assume a single-operator category does NOT allow for use of the Cluster. Many contests have a separate
"assisted" category -- looks like the 10M Test isn't one of them, in which case use of cluster indeed makes you a multiop entry...

> Besides, the DX cluster info wasn't any sort of an "assist" for me. It
> was more in the line of mocking me with all the stations I couldn't even
> hear :-(

(grin)!

Saturday was pretty bad here in Tennessee. Got a LOT of reading done while calling CQ into nothingness. We did get a decent opening to W1/W2 around
10:30 CT but most folks up there had already given up & gone to bed.

It was a LOT better today. Still difficult in the morning, but around noon some South Americans started showing up (and ZM4B) and soon after,
sporadic-E popped open from here to New Mexico and Arizona. With about 90 minutes to go in the test, it also popped to Minnesota and W1/W2. Best
hour of the contest was the last hour...

I worked 42 states. Missed seven states in 7-land (WA/OR/MT/ID/NV/UT/AK). And Indiana. (?!)
349 QSOs for roughly 75,000 points, CW only, high power.

I find it interesting to look at DX Summit **after the contest** and see who spotted me...

--

Doug Smith W9WI
Pleasant View, TN EM66

504. Re: It pays to read ALL the contest rules before starting out ...

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-14 16:49:44 UTC
From: Bert Hyman <bert@iphouse.com>
Message-ID: <Xns9CE16E147B2ADVeebleFetzer@188.40.43.213>
Source record: 1714

In news:l7idncUf5Zp4UbjWnZ2dnUVZ_s6dnZ2d@earthlink.com
poster@giganews.com wrote:

> Bert Hyman wrote:
>
>> ...
>> Didn't see anything about "assisted", so without really thinking
>> about it, I left "Band Master" (a GUI DX cluster front end) running
>> when I started the contest.
>>
>> During one of the many lulls in the contest, I read the rest of the
>> rules and found
>>
>> 3.2. Multioperator, Single Transmitter, mixed mode (only).
>> 3.2.1. Includes single operators using packet or spotting
>> assistance.
>>
>> So, I was suddenly stuck in the Multi-op, mixed mode category.
>>
>> Oh well. That's a mistake I won't make again.
>
> Ouch!
>
> In ARRL and CQ contests you can reasonably assume a single-operator
> category does NOT allow for use of the Cluster. Many contests have a
> separate "assisted" category -- looks like the 10M Test isn't one of
> them, in which case use of cluster indeed makes you a multiop entry...
>
>...

I dropped a line to the contest folks at ARRL, suggesting that they move the bit about single-op becoming multi-op if assisted up into the single-op section, or even moving it above the single-op section.

I didn't really expect to find info about single-op down in the multi-op rules.

As far as the contest went, my experience was much like yours (although my contact count was much lower). Toward the end of the last hour, I wanted to pull a stunt like some legislatures use and throw a towel over the clock so I could keep going after midnight GMT :-)

--
Bert Hyman W0RSB St. Paul, MN bert@iphouse.com

505. rec.radio.amateur.moderated Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-15 07:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines-1-1260860400@panix.com>
Source record: 1715
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.info,rec.answers,news.answers

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Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/ham-radio/moderated/guidelines
Revision: 1.10 2009/05/27 12:04:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rram/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

Welcome to rec.radio.amateur.moderated! This is a moderated newsgroup
for amateur radio operators and other people having an interest in the
Amateur Radio Service, as defined by national regulations and
international treaties. Following are the posting guidelines for this
newsgroup.

This message includes the following sections:

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter
2. Additional posting guidelines
2.1 Netiquette guidelines
2.2 Posting form requirements
2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files
2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting
2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources
2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability to hold
an amateur radio license
2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling
2.8 Guidelines regarding civility
2.9 Other unacceptable topics

------------------------------------------------------------------------

1. Topics and posting policies from the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Charter

rec.radio.amateur.moderated is an inclusive on-line community of amateur
radio operators and other people having an interest in the Amateur Radio
Service. Participants are invited to engage in open discussion of
amateur radio issues and exchange information about participating in the
hobby/service, in an atmosphere of civility, friendship, and fun.

Acceptable topics include but, are not necessarily limited to, questions
and discussions about amateur radio licensing, regulations, tips on
various aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, and sharing
operating experiences and insights.

Unacceptable posts include, but are not limited to, buy/sell/trade
posts, posts that are off-topic to the Amateur Radio Service, posts
```

promoting or defending unlawful activities, etc.

Frequently-Asked-Questions lists and other information/bulletin/
announcement postings may be crossposted to rec.radio.info, rec.answers,
and news.answers only with prior approval of the moderators of those
newsgroups. In all such cases, an appropriate "Followup-To" header,
containing only rec.radio.amateur.moderated, will be added by the
moderators if one is not already provided.

After a 30-day public discussion and feedback period to gauge reader
opinions in March of 2009:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/d7d337db35
f23326

the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team has decided to consider
amending its charter, and permit limited simultaneous crossposting to
rec.radio.amateur.moderated and one other unmoderated
amateur-radio-related discussion newsgroup. We are currently trying
this on a temporary basis (90 days, through early July 2009), and adopt
it permanently if successful.

Approved rec.radio.amateur.* newsgroups are those that are currently
listed in the latest version of the "List of Big Eight Newsgroups" which
is crossposted monthly to news.announce.newgroups, news.groups, and
news.lists.misc.

Approved alt.radio.amateur.* and alt.ham-radio.* newsgroups are those
that have been created consistent with the suggestions in "So You Want
to Create an Alt Newsgroup" at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/alt-creation-guide/

Approved regional hierarchy newsgroups are those that contain either
"radio.amateur" or "ham-radio" in their names, including
uk.radio.amateur and aus.radio.amateur.misc.

We will make every reasonable effort to keep our list of approved
newsgroups up-to-date. In case we have overlooked any, and a submission
is rejected in error as a result, the rejected submitter can E-mail us
at our administrative contact address (in the signature at the bottom of
this article, and the default Reply-To for the rejection message)
requesting that it be added, and that the article be approved. We may
still choose to reject articles crossposted to any alt.* newsgroup with
an inappropriate name, including obscene language, embedded
name-calling, or encouragement of unlawful conduct.

Posters are encouraged to state their own views and share their
experiences, but to refrain from making assumptions about the
motivations of other newsgroup participants. Posters are expected to
maintain a basic tone of civility. Prohibited uncivil discourse
includes, but is not limited to, name calling.

Posts containing unsolicited advice questioning the right, worthiness, suitability and/or readiness of any individual (or members of any group) to be an amateur radio operator are unacceptable in this newsgroup. If an individual chooses to post asking for advice on when or whether to obtain an amateur radio license, or to participate in any type of lawful activity in the Amateur Radio Service, respondents should be careful to address their comments only to the original poster and not explicitly generalize to others in similar situations.

Similarly, posts that arbitrarily declare certain classes of amateur radio licenses, or certain members of national amateur radio societies (e.g., American Radio Relay League, Radio Amateurs of Canada, Radio Society of Great Britain, Wireless Institute of Australia, etc.), to be more or less worthy than others, are not permitted. Posts that politely encourage individuals to join their local amateur radio society, or to upgrade to higher classes of amateur radio license in order to enjoy greater operating privileges, are permitted, however. Posts that contain reasoned, civil, and fact-based discussion of the activities and internal politics of national amateur radio societies are also permitted.

Buy/Sell/Trade and Commercial Policy:

Posts containing offers to buy, sell, or trade are not permitted on rec.radio.amateur.moderated. The rec.radio.swap newsgroup was created for this purpose, and should be used instead. All such articles will be rejected by the moderators with the advice to re-post to that newsgroup.

Postings that are entirely advertisements or other public relations campaigns will not be permitted. Relatively unbiased announcements or reviews of new amateur radio-related products or services may be permitted at the discretion of the moderators. Such posters are asked to disclose their financial or professional interest, if any, in such products or services.

Mentions of small amounts of free items, including both parts and equipment, for giveaway will be permitted on an occasional basis from casual, non-commercial owners, and at the discretion of the moderators. The items should be free except for reasonable direct costs such as shipping, must be directly amateur-radio-related, must be in serviceable condition, and be practical to ship to a distant recipient. This is intended as a common-sense exception to our ban on forsale postings, provided that it doesn't overwhelm the basic character of our discussion newsgroup with classified ads or requests to haul off scrap or junk in salvage condition.

---

2. Additional Posting Guidelines

2.1 Netiquette guidelines

Participants who are new to Usenet should familiarize themselves with the "netiquette" of Usenet as well as the particular posting guidelines

for this group. Several useful posts for "newbies" can be found on the newsgroup news.announce.newusers or on the WWW at:

http://www.faqs.org/faqs/by-newsgroup/news/news.announce.newusers.html

Particularly helpful articles are:
Welcome to Usenet!
Rules for posting to Usenet
Hints on writing style for Usenet
A Primer on How to Work With the Usenet Community
Emily Postnews Answers Your Questions on Netiquette
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about Usenet

Because rec.radio.amateur.moderated is a Usenet newsgroup, there are | implied or derived guidelines for participation that are drawn from the | above articles about overall Usenet culture and tradition. Two of these | implied or derived guidelines are encapsulated in two basic rules that | our moderation team uses to initially determine whether an article is | appropriate for our newsgroup. They are restated explicitly here for | clarification: |

Basic Rule #1: The article must be on-topic for amateur radio. A | rule-of-thumb that our moderation team applies is whether the article | mentions amateur radio, ham radio, some synonym for amateur or ham | radio, some technique or practice of amateur or ham radio including | closely related technical topics such as antennas or portable power, or | regulatory politics that directly affect amateur radio. This | rule-of-thumb is also applied to determine if an article in a thread has | drifted too far off-topic. For example, articles that have drifted into | general rants or monologues will probably be returned with a polite | request to rewrite to include a reasonable amateur radio connection or | angle. |

Basic Rule #2: The article must not have excessive spelling, grammar, or | logical argument errors affecting readability and understandability. | The moderation team understands that clear, understandable, technical or | expository writing is a skill that can only be perfected through a | lifetime of focused training and practice. Because the moderation team | does not want to hold submitters to a standard higher than what it can | achieve itself, nor disrupt the newsgroup and discourage submitters by | playing spelling or grammar police, it will only return for rewrite any | article that cannot be reasonably understood by multiple moderators. |

If it is necessary to return any article for a rewrite because the | moderators have determined that it does not meet Basic Rule #1 or #2, | please accept this constructive feedback in the manner in which it is | intended. The moderation team offers its assistance to help rewrite any | submitted article into a form that preserves its original intent and | meaning, but is also on-topic, as well as readable and understandable by | others. |

2.2 Posting form requirements

Any article that falls into any of the following categories will be automatically rejected:

A) Articles that contain original text of more than 75 characters per line
B) Crossposted articles to newsgroups not included in these Guidelines
C) Articles that contain more than 400 lines
D) Encoded binary files (except PGP and other short digital signatures)
E) Attachments to posts
F) Articles containing obscene language
G) Articles from individuals who have been suspended or banned from the newsgroup

2.3 Guidelines on signature (.sig) files

Many people close each article they write with a few lines of common text. This may be a cute quip or quote, or may include information about their family, contact information, or disclaimers required by their employer, for example.

Signature files used on rec.radio.amateur.moderated posting must be no longer than 8 lines.

The content of a poster's signature need not be relevant to amateur radio, but it must not violate any of the other posting guidelines. (For example, name-calling that would not be acceptable in the body of a message is also unacceptable in a signature.) Posters may include Uniform Resource Locators (URL's) and business addresses in signature files, provided they comply with all the other guidelines regarding signatures.

2.4 Guidelines on excessive quoting

Posts more than 20 lines long that also have more than 75% quoted text will be carefully reviewed by a moderator to determine if that degree of quoting is warranted. Posts with excessive quoted text may be rejected.

Posters must show a reasonable effort to trim the post they are replying to and to include just enough material to establish context. "Me too!" posts are discouraged, and, when posted, must edit the quoted material significantly.

2.5 Guidelines on pointers to outside sources

Unsolicited announcements and pointers to web sites that are strictly advertisements or other public relations campaigns are not permitted. However, a pointer to a website or other external source of information is permitted and encouraged in cases where it is relevant to an existing thread, with appropriate context being given in the post. A URL with no information about what a user should expect to find there will be rejected. A pointer to information that is off-charter for rec.radio.amateur.moderated will be rejected, as will a pointer which

itself does not meet the rec.radio.amateur.moderated guidelines (such as a URL containing embedded name-calling).

Moderators are not responsible for verifying the contents of any external information source.

2.6 Guidelines regarding questioning someone's suitability hold an amateur radio license

Identifiable groups and individuals may not be asked/told/etc. not to obtain an amateur radio license, or to only obtain certain classes of amateur radio license. It is not permissible to make statements that a person or members of a specific group "should" not, or should not be allowed to, become an amateur radio operator.

Solicited advice of this type is permissible; however, posters must be careful not to explicitly generalize to others who are in some way "like" the poster asking the question. Stick to the individual asking for advice.

It is acceptable to discuss verified violations, documented in criminal convictions or other government enforcement actions, by a person or members of a specific group.

2.7 Guidelines regarding name-calling

Nastiness addressed at a person is considered name-calling. Criticizing a person's *actions* is not, provided that it is done in a civil manner.

Attacks on an action which by their very nature include an accusation against the person's character are not acceptable. For example, "That's a lie" implies an intentional prevarication, and is considered name-calling. Acceptable ways of questioning the truth of a poster's statement include the more tactful "I don't think that's true," "I believe you are mistaken because..." or even simply "That's not true." "That's not true and you know it" crosses back over into name-calling, however.

2.8 Guidelines regarding civility

By charter, posters are expected to maintain a civil tone in all their postings. The guidelines on name-calling cover part of that requirement, but not all of it.

In general, posters are expected to consider the reputations of other participants, and refrain from making unnecessary accusations or assumptions about the motivations of others. A good rule of thumb is to phrase your comments as your opinion -- "I think..." "It seems to me that..." "This makes me wonder whether..." etc...

Posters are expected to make factual claims, to debate topics openly and in good faith, and to accept honest criticism, all without provocation or prevarication. At least one professional organization, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), has recognized that such

fair dealings are necessary components of ethical conduct, and has incorporated them into its Code of Ethics:

http://www.ieee.org/portal/pages/iportals/aboutus/ethics/code.html

Though the Amateur Radio Service is not a professional endeavor, the moderators strongly feel that the IEEE Code of Ethics is also a worthwhile set of guiding principles for participants in the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup.

Posters are not required to support the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). However, they are expected to adhere to the spirit of the other parts of the ARRL's "Amateur's Code":

http://www.arrl.org/acode.html

2.9 Other unacceptable topics

Participants are reminded that the charter also prohibits posts promoting or defending unlawful operating practices.

Posts may discuss whether operating practices are unlawful, or engage in reasoned debate over why certain operating practices should or should not be unlawful. Posts may discuss enforcement actions, such as by the Federal Communications Commission in the United States or similar government agencies in other countries, and evidence gathered by parties such as Official Observers in support of complaints about unlawful operation.

Discussions of what practices constitute unlawful operation in the Amateur Radio Service should be limited to *factual* descriptions of the laws in various jurisdictions. Posters' *opinions* as to what practices they consider unlawful are not permitted. In particular, posters are cautioned not to extrapolate their country's laws and regulations to those in other parts of the world, as they may be quite different.

Posts that entirely concern themselves with other radio services or hobbies, such as Citizen's Band, General Mobile Radio Service/Family Radio Service, and Scanner or Shortwave Listening, are considered off-topic to the rec.radio.amateur.moderated newsgroup. Newsgroups such as rec.radio.cb, rec.radio.scanner, and/or rec.radio.shortwave may be more appropriate venues for such posts.

Posts that attempt to publicly criticize moderators or moderation decisions in the newsgroup itself are also not permitted, as stated in our original newsgroup charter. Please direct any such critical feedback to our administrative contact address at the bottom of this article, where it will be carefully considered by an appeals team of moderators. This team is distinct from the initial team of moderators that approves or disapproves article submissions, and thus can provide independent oversight of moderation decisions.

Similarly, if you see an obviously inappropriate article in our newsgroup, please assume that it was a mistake or a direct forgery. The

moderation team makes every effort to protect the newsgroup from such incidents, but they do happen, albeit rarely. You may also submit feedback to the same address regarding such articles in our newsgroup, but it is likely that our monitoring software and procedures have already detected it, and we are actively handling the problem. Please resist "piling on" with followups to the newsgroup when these incidents occur, so that we don't have to reject such articles.

Due to Usenet newgroup access being eliminated at many ISP's, including MSN, AOL, RoadRunner, Time Warner, Verizon, and Comcast, we are starting to receive many article submissions asking about free or low-cost alternatives for accessing Usenet newsgroups such as ours. We initially permitted this topic in light of the significant impact to many of our readers due to this loss of access through their ISP's. However, this subject is arguably off-topic for our newsgroup, is better answered by other sources, and better discussed in other venues. Because of this, we will no longer approve submissions that request or suggest where to obtain access to Usenet newsgroups. For more information about this topic, please consult the following:

- The last approved thread of discussion about this topic on our newsgroup from October 2008:

http://groups.google.com/group/rec.radio.amateur.moderated/browse_thread/thread/19770b88ec527aff/8dcee92de293f615?hl=en#8dcee92de293f615

- A list of News Service Providers maintained by the Big-8 Management Board:

http://www.big-8.org/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=faqs:news_providers&s=news%20service%20providers

- A list of Public News Servers at the Open Directory Project:

http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Usenet/Public_News_Servers/

- An article with links and reader suggestions at Broadband Reports:

http://www.broadbandreports.com/shownews/96318

- Google Groups:

http://groups.google.com

The rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team does not endorse or recommend any particular News Service Provider (NSP). We encourage our readers to choose the free or subscription service that best meets their own personal needs based on their own evaluation of the available alternatives.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-amateur-moderated-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the misc.kids.moderated Posting Guidelines.)

506. IARU Electronic Newsletter November, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-15 16:18:13 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091215100259.68F253275E7@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1716
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

IARU Electronic Newsletter November, 2009

In this issue:
An Introduction
Preparations for WRC-12
IARU Administrative Council Meeting
GAREC-09 - Action Needed

==> An Introduction

This is the first IARU E-Letter for some period of time. As such, I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Rod Stafford, W6ROD, the new IARU Secretary. I will also be responsible for publishing this E-Letter. I assumed the office of Secretary on October 1, 2009. Dave Sumner, K1ZZ has been the IARU Secretary for the last 10 years and he was also IARU Secretary for a 7-year period in the 1980's. Dave did a great job as Secretary and I hope to continue the high standard that he established. Dave will continue to work closely with the IARU Administrative Council and will be Recording Secretary at the IARU Administrative Council meetings.

I began my association with the American Radio Relay League in 1983 as a Section Manager in the ARRL Field Organization. The Section Manager is a locally elected ARRL Official. In January, 1986, I became an ARRL Director and since that time have served as a Director, First and Second Vice President, President (1995-2000) and as the International Affairs Vice President (2000-present). I have attended 16 regional conferences, numerous regional executive committee meetings and numerous Administrative Council meetings. I'm certain the international experience will assist me as I take on the challenges of being IARU Secretary. In my professional life I have just retired as a Superior Court Judge in the State of California USA. My last day as an active Judge was the day prior to assuming the duties as IARU Secretary.

As far as my amateur radio operating, I enjoy the HF bands, particularly 20 and 40 meters, when I can make time to get on the air. Since I am now retired from full-time employment I should have more time for operating. My favorite ham activity is ragchewing and getting to know the person I work on the ham bands. I also enjoy VHF-UHF operation when I am in the car.

The purpose of this newsletter will be to provide information to the IARU member-societies that can be shared with their members. Many members of IARU societies are unaware of much of what the IARU does and why it does what it does. Hopefully, this newsletter will help

disseminate that information. Member-societies are requested to forward this E-Letter to their members electronically or any other appropriate way. Another purpose of the newsletter is to keep the member-societies up to date on the preparations for the upcoming World Radiocommunication Conference in early, 2012 (WRC-12) and how the member-societies can assist in the preparations. The newsletter will also serve as a outlet for information coming from the member-societies. If there is information that is appropriate to be shared with other member-societies around the world, please send me an email with the information and it will be published in this newsletter.

==> WRC-12 Preparations Underway

WRC-12 will start in January, 2012. The year 2012 seems a long way away but it is only slightly more than two years from now. Preparations within national telecom administrations have been underway for some period of time. Regional telecom organizations have been meeting to discuss the WRC agenda items and to arrive at regional positions on each issue.

Each and every IARU member-society capable of doing so should take the initiative to contact their own administration and let the administration know what the IARU position is on those WRC agenda items that impact the amateur radio service. If your society needs some guidance or advice on how best to approach the administration or what the substance of such discussions should be then do not hesitate to contact the IARU International Secretariat for assistance.

It would be very helpful if your society could place a knowledgeable amateur radio operator on the national delegation attending the WRC. If providing the support for an amateur to attend the WRC is not possible, it would be helpful if your society could arrange to have a knowledgeable amateur radio operator attend the national administrations planning meetings or the regional preparatory meetings leading up to the WRC.

Although the preparation process started some time ago it is not too late for your society to get involved. Do it today.

==> IARU Administrative Council Meeting October, 2009

The IARU Administrative Council (AC) held its annual meeting in mid-October, 2009, in Christchurch, New Zealand. IARU President Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, presided over his first AC meeting. Also in attendance was Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Vice President; Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Secretary; Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, President and Dennis Green, ZS4BS, Secretary, IARU Region 1; Ramï¿½n Santoyo, XE1KK, Secretary, and Daniel Lamoureux, VE2KA, Director, IARU Region 2; and Michael J. Owen, VK3KI, Chairman, and Shizuo Endo, JE1MUI, Director, IARU Region 3. Also present was Region 3 Director Peter Lake ZL2AZ along with David Sumner, K1ZZ, as recording secretary.

One of the major topics of discussion at the AC meeting involved the upcoming WRC-12, the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2012. The AC adopted preliminary IARU positions on the WRC agenda items that relate to amateur radio or may impact the amateur radio service. The most significant agenda items are:

1. Agenda Item (AI) 1.14 - Implementation of the radiolocation service in the range 30-300 MHz;

2. AI 1.15 - Possible allocations in the range 3-50 MHz to the radiolocation service for oceanographic radar applications;

3. AI 1.19 - Software-defined radio and cognitive radio systems;

4. AI 1.22 - Effect of emissions from short-range devices; and

5. AI 1.23 - To consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services.

IARU has a document on the IARU web site that identifies the present and anticipated future requirements for radio spectrum allocations to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services. These requirements are identified so that they may be taken into account in the formulation of national policies with respect to proposed and possible future international allocations conferences. At each AC meeting, those requirements are reviewed and when circumstances change so do the requirements. If you're interested in seeing what the IARU sees as spectrum requirements for the amateur service then log onto the IARU web site at http://www.iaru.org and look for the "Spectrum Requirements" document.

The IARU 2025 Committee was established a few years ago to explore restructuring IARU to make it more effective to meet the challenges faced by amateur radio. The committee came up with a proposed new structure. However, even though the proposed new structure had a number of beneficial aspects it became obvious early on that funding of the new structure could be problematic. At its recent meeting, the committee was restructured and given a slightly different mandate. If the committee can't develop a funding method for the proposed new structure then the committee may propose a different structure. Additionally, the committee should identify changes which can be implemented in the present structure to address concerns raised by the regional organizations and some member-societies.

There has been a movement in the last several years to try to identify "centers of activity" frequencies across all three IARU regions that can be used in disaster relief operations. It has at times been difficult to arrive at a consensus on what frequencies should be used. The AC noted that all three regions have now reached consensus on three global Center of Activity (CoA) frequencies for use in the event of emergencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. When no emergency operations are being conducted, these frequencies are open for normal

amateur usage. However, GAREC-09 (more on GAREC later in this report) calls upon IARU member-societies, among others, "whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, web-sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic." It would be helpful for each member-society to develop an effective method of notifying amateurs within their own country of any such emergency traffic being handled on the CoA frequencies, or elsewhere in the amateur bands.

In 2008, the AC called for a study of the QSL Bureau System. Since the study was initiated over 51 member-societies responded to the study questionnaire. It became clear that in some societies, QSL cards are not handled the same way for members as non-members. There are a small number of societies that dispose of the cards sent through their bureaus for non-members. The AC adopted a resolution stating "that member-societies are strongly encouraged, whenever possible, to provide incoming QSL bureau service to non-members within their operating territory, if such non-members agree to pay the full cost of this service; and if they are not already doing so, to explore appropriate means and methods for delivering QSL cards to non-members."

The AC adopted a protocol to deal with member-societies that no longer exist. If for a period of not less than 5 years: (a) there is no address or other means known to either the International Secretariat or the relevant regional organization by which communication may be made with a member-society; (b) there has been no communication from any person claiming to represent that member-society; and (c) there is no other evidence of the continued existence of that member-society. If those circumstances exist, then the relevant regional organization may request that the AC thereafter publish in the Calendar a notice setting out its belief that the particular Member-Society has ceased to exist, and calling for the submission of any evidence to the contrary within 180 days of the publication of the Calendar. If no such evidence is submitted within 180 days of the publication of the Calendar, then the member-society shall be deemed to no longer exist from that date. Thereafter, any association of radio amateurs claiming to represent that country or separate territory shall be required to apply for membership in the IARU in accordance with the IARU Constitution and Bylaws.

Promoting and preserving amateur radio is the mainstay of the IARU. The AC has at its disposal a number of expert consultants and technical representatives and relies heavily on such volunteer experts and technical representatives. There is always a need for more assistance by knowledgeable amateurs to attend ITU meetings and other telecommunications meetings to represent IARU. The IARU regional organizations and member-societies can be of assistance by recommending individuals who are capable of attending meetings and effectively

promoting the IARU objectives at such meetings. Individuals who are amateurs and who have backgrounds in various technical fields such as broadband or wireless technologies, propagation, radar, satellite communications and spectrum management, just to name a few, can be of assistance. Individuals who may be retired from government work in the field of communications or telecommunication regulation are good candidates for working within the IARU to achieve IARU goals. Member-society leaders are requested to investigate whether such individuals are members of their society and to determine if those amateurs would be willing to assist the IARU. If they are willing to do so, please contact the International Secretariat with the names and contact information so inquires can be made to determine if they are willing to join the IARU team of experts.

These are some of the important matters discussed at the recent Administrative Council meeting. The complete Summary Record of the meeting can be found at http://www.iaru.org/admin-council-summaries.html.

==> GAREC-09

The Fifth Global Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Conference (GAREC-09) took place in Tokyo, Japan, 24 & 25 August 2009. GAREC-09 was hosted by Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) and was held in conjunction with Jam Fair 2009. Representatives from IARU, the three IARU regional organizations, representatives from a number of IARU member-societies and specialized amateur radio emergency communications groups from all three IARU regions attended the conference.

GAREC-09 produced a statement calling upon IARU member-societies and specialized amateur radio emergency communications groups to:

- to establish close working relationships between the National IARU Member Society and independent specialized Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Groups in the respective countries as well as to cooperate internationally,

- to request their national regulatory authorities implement the modifications to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations adopted by the World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), in particular the regulations governing third-party traffic during emergencies and during training for emergency operations,

- to provide training in emergency communications to as many amateurs as possible in their respective countries with particular emphasis on:

- personal and logistical preparedness, the psychological aspects of entering a disaster area, and familiarity with the civil protection system in their country,

- specific communications techniques of particular value in emergencies, and

- remembering that the skills developed in the amateur service can be of great benefit to disaster relief organizations in maintaining and operating their own telecommunications networks,

- whenever emergency communications are being conducted on frequencies that propagate internationally, to use any available real-time communications channels, including but not limited to e-mail bulletins, web-sites, social networking and DX-clusters to draw the attention of the largest possible number of Amateur Radio operators to on-going emergency communications, in order to avoid interference with emergency traffic,

- to use their contacts with national regulatory authorities to encourage the accession to and implementation of the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations,

- to support the work of the IARU on an international Emergency Communications Handbook and to provide copies of existing agreements with institutional partners in emergency response as well as copies of emergency communication guidelines, manuals, and checklists developed for national or local use as inputs to this work,

- to work towards the implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding established between the IARU and ITU, IFRC, and the United Nations by seeking cooperation with the respective national institutions and organizations in their country,

- to continuously improve their awareness of the mission, vision, and values of served agencies, and

- to represent themselves as a human and technical resource able and willing to investigate the communication requirements of served agencies, offer recommendations when asked, and facilitate emergency communications when required.

GAREC-10 is already being planned. GAREC will return to Region 2 in 2010. The Venue will be CURACAO. The dates will be October 11-12, 2010.

The Theme of the Conference will be: "Learning Through Practicing". More details about GAREC-10 will be available as the conference draws closer or on the GAREC web site at http://www.iaru.org/emergency/.

==> CONTACT INFORMATION

I can be reached by email at w6rod@iaru.org. If you have information that you believe would be of interest to the other IARU member-societies around the world then send the information to me. If you would like to see a particular subject discussed in this E-Letter, don't hesitate to contact me with the suggestion.

73,

Rod Stafford W6ROD Secretary, International Amateur Radio Union

507. The ARRL Letter for December 17, 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-17 18:55:33 UTC
From: ARRL Web site <memberlist@www.arrl.org>
Message-ID: <20091217185505.7D99A327A1A@bmailer.arrl.org>
Source record: 1717
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

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The ARRL Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League
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December 17, 2009

Editor: S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA <k1sfa@arrl.org>

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<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>Audio News
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> IN THIS ISSUE

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+ Available on ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>

==> + ADVOCACY: AMATEUR RADIO BILL PASSES SENATE, MOVES TO THE HOUSE

On Monday, December 14, S 1755 -- The Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 -- passed the Senate by
unanimous consent; the bill now goes to the House of Representatives
for consideration. Sponsored by Senator Joe Lieberman (ID-CT), and
Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), S 1755, if passed, would direct the
Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to undertake a study on emergency
communications. S 1755 points out that "There is a strong Federal
interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service
stations, and that performance must be given -- (A) support at all
levels of government; and (B) protection against unreasonable
regulation and impediments to the provision of the valuable
communications provided by such stations." Read more here
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/15/11247/?nc=1>.
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==> + PUBLIC SERVICE: HAMS HELP OUT WITH SEA RESCUE

When Dave Nicholson, N2AWE, was stranded at sea earlier this month off the Bermuda Triangle, he had no fuel and his 47 foot sailboat had sustained severe damage in a storm. When they learned of his predicament, hams with the Maritime Mobile Service Net (MMSN) helped to coordinate with the US Coast Guard to bring fuel and a tow boat to guide Nicholson safely to port. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/16/11254/?nc=1>.

==> THE 2009 ARRL SPECTRUM DEFENSE CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, reports that the ARRL has raised more than $221,000 toward the goal $310,000 for the 2009 Spectrum Defense Fund <http://www.arrl.org/defense>. "The messages I receive from the ARRL members and hams who contribute to this much needed fund are heartening," she said, "expressing appreciation for all the work ARRL does for the Amateur Radio community to protect our frequencies. And we can all be proud of the successes that have come from the work of ARRL leadership -- the Board and staff here at HQ. But there is always more to do." Hobart said that year after year, ARRL members tell her that the League's representation of radio operators -- both in Washington and on the international stage -- is one of, if not the most important activities that the ARRL does. "The cost of that representation at meetings in Washington, at ITU gatherings and working party meetings to prepare for world telecommunications conferences is the key to the continued success of our defense efforts," she said. "Spectrum Defense is one of those areas that is not covered completely by member dues. So we ask ARRL members to do what they can to help cover those expenses." Amateurs wishing to make a contribution may do so easily online <http://www.arrl.org/defense>, via postal mail or by calling the ARRL Development Office at 860-594-0397.

==> + AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: FIRST CHINESE AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITE NOW IN SPACE

AMSAT China (CAMSAT <http://www.camsat.cn/>) reports that at around 0230 UTC on December 15, China launched its first Amateur Radio satellite -- named XW-1 <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/satInfo.php?satID=116&retURL=satellites/futures.php>
-- into space. The microsatellite -- a secondary payload aboard the CZ-4C rocket launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center -- was launched into a Sun-synchronous orbit with an apogee of approximately 1200 kilometers. XW-1 successfully reached orbit at 0253 UTC. Members of the XW-1 launch team reported they received a beacon from the satellite shortly after the satellite deployed. In the first few days, the XW-1 team will work on the satellite's FM and store-forward transponder mode and its linear transponder mode. Once those tests are complete, they will upload a new flight program to set up the payload schedule. The satellite's communications payload includes a beacon and three crossband transponders operating in FM, SSB/CW and digital modes. Uplink and downlink frequencies can be found on the CAMSAT Web site

<http://www.camsat.cn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=56&Itemid=67>.
For the latest Keplerian elements for XW-1 and other satellites, check out the W1AW Keplerian Bulletins <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/kep/>.

==> + AMATEUR RADIO IN SPACE: STUDENTS AND TEACHERS INVITED TO "FLY A FILE" ON ARISSAT-1

On February 3, 2006, cosmonaut Valery Ivanovich Tokarev hand-launched the Amateur Radio satellite SuitSat-1 from the International Space Station during an extra vehicular activity (EVA), NASA's term for a spacewalk. A discarded Russian ORLAN spacesuit, SuitSat-1 was equipped with an Amateur Radio transmitter that transmitted telemetry and greetings from youngsters to the youth of the world in several languages. In 2010, an Amateur Radio satellite -- ARISSat-1 -- will once again be hand-launched from the ISS. Like its predecessor, ARISSat-1 will transmit messages recorded by students, and teachers and students are invited to "fly a file" aboard this Amateur Radio satellite. Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/15/11251/?nc=1>.

==> + ARRL PUBLICATIONS: CHECK OUT THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010 NCJ

The January/February issue of NCJ, The National Contest Journal, is filled with the latest news from the contesting world. Whether you are new to contesting or are a seasoned pro -- or somewhere in the middle -- you will find something in NCJ just for you. In addition to all of the exciting articles in this issue, there are all the regular columns and features you expect from NCJ: "Workshop Chronicles," by Don Daso, K4ZA; "Contest Tips, Tricks & Techniques," by Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT; "VHF Contesting," by Jon Jones, N0JK; "RTTY Contesting," by Don Hill, AA5AU; "Propagation," by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA; "Contesting on a Budget," by Ralph Bellas, K9ZO, and "Contesting 101," by Kirk Pickering, K4RO. NCJ is published six times a year by the ARRL; it is edited by Al Dewey, K0AD. NCJ is what every contester needs in their shack -- subscribe today <http://www.arrl.org/ncj/>! Read more here <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/16/11252/?nc=1>.

==> + ARRL PUBLICATIONS: QEX : THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2010 ISSUE

The January/February issue of QEX is coming soon, and it is full of theoretical and practical technical articles that you won't want to miss. Would you like to write for QEX? It pays $50/printed page. Get more information and an Author's Guide <http://www.arrl.org/qex/>. If you prefer postal mail, send a business-size self-addressed, stamped envelope to QEX Author's Guide, c/o Maty Weinberg, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. QEX is edited by Larry Wolfgang, WR1B <lwolfgang@arrl.org>, and is published bimonthly. The subscription rate (6 issues) for ARRL members in the US is $24. For First Class US delivery, it's $37; in Canada and internationally by airmail it's $31. Nonmembers add $12 to these rates. Subscribe to QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex> today. Read more here

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/17/11253/?nc=1>.

==> + NOW YOU KNOW!: SANTA'S A HAM!

By ARRL News Editor S. Khrystyne Keane, K1SFA

For 37 years, Mickey Hicks, WO6T, played Santa Claus to hundreds of children. These children never sat on Santa's lap to tell him that they had been good boys and girls and what they wanted for Christmas. They did it in a much more simple way -- they picked up a microphone and told Santa on the air. Each year, Hicks, a ham for almost 50 years and a long-time Amateur Radio instructor, would get on the air for 10 days each December as W6S (Whiskers-6-Santa). Unfortunately, Hicks became a Silent Key earlier this year.

Hicks said that the first year he operated as W6S was a hit with the operators -- and their children. Most children, he noted, are a bit apprehensive of talking over the radio, let alone to Santa. One of the most challenging parts of operating was when he heard a parent say "This one is shy and won't talk." That was never a problem for Hicks -- after a few warm-up questions, such as "Can you say hello to Rudolph?" -- he said he could strike up a conversation that lasted a few minutes. He had even heard back from parents that they weren't able to get the microphone away from the kids afterward!

Back in 2001, Hicks told the ARRL <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2001/12/21/3/?nc=1> that his Santa's Workshop was a great ham radio recruiting tool. One of his most memorable experiences was when a young girl he'd once spoken with on the air as Santa came by with her ham ticket in hand to thank him in person for getting her interested in Amateur Radio. "I had tears in my eyes, of course," he said. One of the most enjoyable moments of Hicks' Santa career occurred when he was speaking with a young child and realized he had spoken with their parents and grandparents when they were youngsters!

Mark Slater, WI6J, was Hicks' QSL manager. With the blessing of Hicks' wife, son and daughter-in-law, Slater will carry on the W6S tradition for 2010 and beyond. "Mickey's shoes are so much bigger than I could ever hope to fill," he told the ARRL, "but I know Mickey would have wanted Santa to keep getting on the air and speaking with the children." Slater said you can find him most evenings, as well as the weekend of December 19-20, on 14.270 MHz, Santa's favorite frequency. Santa is a ham -- now you know!

==> ARRL STAFF VACANCY

A vacancy has developed in the position of ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager. Applications for this position will be solicited before the end of the year with the objective of filling the position early in 2010. Because this is the last scheduled ARRL Letter of 2009, if you or someone you know may be qualified for and interested in the position, please watch for the posting on the ARRL Web site

<http://www.arrl.org/announce/jobs/>.

==> SOLAR UPDATE

Tad "A friend to man, to whom thou say'st, 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty' <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/odeonagrecianurn.html>" Cook, K7RA, reports: Yet another new sunspot group -- number 1035 -- emerged this week, seemingly on top of group 1034, which has been visible since December 9. This sunspot group is quite active, and we may see a rise in geomagnetic activity on Sunday, December 20 with a predicted planetary A index of 15. Look for more information in the Solar Update, available on the ARRL Web site on Friday, December 18. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/propagation.html>. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by John Keats' Ode on a Grecian Urn <http://englishhistory.net/keats/poetry/odeonagrecianurn.html>.

==> THIS WEEK ON THE RADIO

This week, the Russian 160 Meter Contest is December 18. The OK DX RTTY Contest is December 19. The Croatian CW Contest is December 19-20 and the Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party is December 19-January 3. The ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint is December 20, the Run for the Bacon QRP Contest is December 21 and the SKCC Sprint is December 23. Next week, check out the South Dakota QSO Party and the Stew Perry Topband Challenge -- both are on December 26-27. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>, the ARRL Contest Update <http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>.

==> + ARRL HEADQUARTERS CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS

ARRL Headquarters will be closed Friday, December 25, 2009 and Friday, January 1, 2010 in observance of Christmas and New Year's Day. There will be no W1AW bulletins <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/> or code practice transmissions <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html#w1awsked> those days. There will be no ARRL Letter <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/> <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>or ARRL Audio News <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/> <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/audio/>on Thursday, December 24 and 31. We wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season and a prosperous 2010.

==> ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSE REGISTRATION

Registration remains open through Sunday, December 27, 2009, for these online course sessions <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student/> beginning on Friday, January 8, 2010: Amateur Radio Emergency

Communications Level 1; Antenna Modeling; Radio Frequency Interference; Antenna Design and Construction; Ham Radio (Technician) License Course; Propagation; Analog Electronics, and Digital Electronics. To learn more, visit the CEP Course Listing page <http://www.arrl.org/cep/student> or contact the Continuing Education Program Coordinator <cce@arrl.org>.

The ARRL Letter is published Thursdays, 50 times each year. ARRL members may subscribe at no cost or unsubscribe by editing their Member Data Page as described at http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/.

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<http://www.arrl.org/>

508. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1688 - December 18 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-18 07:49:09 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091217132111.016c8160@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1718
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1688 - December 18 2009

The following is a closed circuit. With an update on Amateur Radio Newsline, here's our Producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF:

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This message will last about 5 1/2 minutes. Let me start by saying thank you to all who called or e-mailed their condolences on the passing of our treasurer, and my friend of the past two and a half decades Andy Jarema, N6TCQ. I will shortly on-pass those wishes to Judy and I know she will be appreciative.

As anytime there is the sudden passing of a key member of any organization there is a true feeling of loss. It takes time to sink in that this person whom had been such an integral part of all of our lives is now gone and he will never return. That I will never again going to hear the phone ring and on the other end will be Andy just calling to say hello. Or, or more times than not, telling me that the funds are low and we need income fast. And always telling me this with his well known Cheshire cat smile and a bit of a laugh to help soften the bad news a bit.

Yes, Andy Jarema, N6TCQ, was more than our treasurer and support fund administrator. He was our friend and a better friend nobody could possibly have.

But Andy would be the first to tell you that life and the business associated with life must go on. And it has for us here at the Amateur Radio Newsline. And I want to spend a few moments bring you up to date.

First off to those who support Newsline by check, we believe that we have located and deposited all that were in Andy's possession at the time of his passing. We have also been able to transfer all Pay Pal donations. In all, there was about $1500 in donations that Andy had not had the time to process before falling ill. Those have been transferred into our bank account with $741 going to pay off back expenses associated with the Young Ham of the Year Award and other administrative costs that had been lingering the past several months. Another $182 went to our Wireless provider for two months of service and $201.01 was paid to ATT to bring our wireline phone bill up to date. So out of that $1500 we have already spent $1124 to clear past debts and leaving us with about $375 to hopefully get us through to years end. Not a lot, and that does not include the monthly $63 for our high speed Internet connection that Ill front out of pocket for the time being, but at least we are up to date for the moment.

So what does this mean to all of you? First, to those of you who contribute by Pay Pal, you can resume doing so. The link to our PayPal donation account is on our website at www.arnewsline.org

If you support us by mail, please note that the Arcadia California Post Office Box is being closed within the next week or so. Temporarily, we are using my address for all incoming mail. If you do not have it, you will hear it at the end of this bulletin or just look me -- WA6ITF -- up on QRZ.com or Buckmaster. I have been at this address since 1979 and have no plans to move.

As to the future, we are searching for a ham who like Andy was, is a Certified Public Accountant with expertise in maintaining an income database as well as the knowledge needed to file our annual federal and state tax reports. Obviously the latter kind of means we need someone who is a California resident for this post. And he or she needs to do this as a volunteer and free of charge for us as Andy did for the last two decades plus. If you know of anyone who fits that description have that person contact me by e-mail to newsline@arnewsline.org

Lastly, I do have Andy's file as to whom donated what and when. Right now I simply do not have the time to do the regular thank-you's that Andy did so eloquently over the years he served as the Support Fund Administrator, but Ill do my best to include them in upcoming newscasts. It was a tradition that Andy started and that we plan to continue in his memory.

And that brings you up to date. Yes, we do need your continued support and the methods for us to accept contributions are back in place.

Once again we thank all of you for your outpouring of support in this very hard time. I think that's what sets Newsline apart from all other groups. Whether its us here producing the newscast or you who are listening, we truly are an extended family held together all of these years through the bonds of a hobby and service known as Amateur Radio.

Thank you, and God Bless. I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

Now to Don Carlson, KQ6FM, and this weeks newscast.

--

Thank you Bill. Now, Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1688 with a release date of Friday, December 18th 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a QST. China launches its first multi-transponder ham radio satellite, a big sunspot finally appears on the solar disc, Bahrain gives its hams added spectrum and ARISSSAT One to carry student files into space. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1688 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: CHINA LAUNCHES THE XW-1 HAMSAT

China's first ever amateur radio satellite is now in space. Amateur Radio Newsline's Norm Seeley, KI7UP, has the details:

--

AMSAT China reports the bird known as XW-1 was launched at about around 02:30 UTC on Tuesday, December 15th. And not long after liftoff it achieved orbit and its beacon was received by a monitoring station located in Sanya.

Late word is that XW-1 is in a circular orbit with both Apogee and Perigee at 1200 kilometers above the Earth. It sits at an inclination of 105 degrees and has an orbital period of 109 minutes to circle the planet.

XW-1 carries several transponders but the one that will be of interest to most hams is Mode J. This is a VHF to UHF orbital FM Voice Repeater running 1 watt output. It has an uplink on 145.8250 MHz and requiring a Continuous Tone Code Squelch Access Tone of 67.0 Hertz. The Downlink is 435.6750 MHz.

Other transponders support low duty cycle communications such as SSB and Morse. There's also a separate digital transponder as well.

XW-1 was a secondary payload aboard a Chinese booster that went into space from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. It placed its cargo into a sun-synchronous orbit about 1200 kilometers high. The primary payload of this launch is the Yaogen-8 Remote Sensing Satellite.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Norm Seeley, KI7UP, in Scottsdale, Arizona

--

Details on the new XW-1 satellite are available
http://www.camsat.cn/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&idV&I
temidg
(ANS)

**

RADIO PROPAGATION: BIG NEW SUNSPOT:

Sunspot 1035 is here and its big news. This, because its one of the largest sunspots seen in years.

On Tuesday, December 15th Spaceweather reported that sunspot 1035 was nearly as wide as seven planet Earth's and growing. It said that the fast-growing active region burst into view on December 14th with a magnetic polarity that clearly identifies it as a member of new Solar Cycle 24.

If the expansion continues apace, it could soon become the largest sunspot of the year. Check spaceweather dot com for the latest photos and updates. And lets hope that this sunspot hangs around for a while to bring hams worldwide some long awaited High Frequency DX. (Spaceweather)

**

RESTRUCTURING: BAHRAIN GRANTS NEW OPERATING PRIVILEGES

The Daily DX is reporting that radio amateurs in Bahrain can now operate 50.0 to 50.5 MHz on 6 meters on a primary and exclusive basis, and 50.05 to 52.00 MHz on a secondary basis. The report also adds that they can now operate on additional frequencies on 136 kHz, 1.8 MHz, 7 MHz, 430 MHz and higher bands.

However there is one caveat: Bahrainian amateurs cannot operate on these newly allocated frequencies until their licenses are amended. (Daily DX, OPDX, Southgate, others)

**

BREAK 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Pikes Peak FM Association and the Pikes Peak Amateur Radio Association serving the inter-mountain West from Colorado Springs, Colorado.

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO LAW: RSGB TO CHALLENGE OFCOM OVER BPL

The Radio Society of Great Britain has established a Spectrum Defense Fund to challenge UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom. This over the agency's interpretation of the various Acts and Directives that cover Broad over Powerline or what Europe calls PLT Internet access and the threat that it may pose to amateur radio communications.

According to an RSGB news release, this challenge may take the form of a Judicial Review, but the national society says that i ill await the advice of its lawyers on the direction to take. It also notes that the cost of a Judicial Review is likely to be in excess of ï¿½75,000 United Kingdom Pounds and that there is no guarantee of success.

If this approach sounds a bit familiar that's because it quite similar to the court case brought here in the United States against the FCC. In that one the court ruled that the ARRL was correct and ordered the FCC to reassess its BPL policy and rules. (GB2RS)

**

RADIO LAW: CB WEBSITE WARNS TRUCKERS TO STAY OUT OF 10 METERS

A CB website is warning trucker C-B'ers and Freebanders to keep out of the 10 meter ham band. The home page post on LiveCBRadio.com tells readers that mobile ham operators all over the United States are now observing and reporting truckers talking above 28 MHz. The website notes that the hams will not just report the truck and it's company to the FCC, but that they often include video and audio as evidence with their complaints.

The website goes on to note that the FCC contacts the trucking company warning them of potential fines. It says that already there have been cases where both truckers and trucking companies have been fined.

The website warns readers, especially truckers with modified export type C-B sets that what is called C-B channel 19 High is actually 28.085 MHz. When someone with one of these illegal export radios tunes to 19 High he or she is transmitting full carrier A-M in the Morse only area of 10 meters.

The website warns CB'ers and Freebanders that is best to stay within the common C-B channels from 1 to 40. It notes that trucker CB'ers using the 19 High frequency might think that they are gaining extra privacy. In reality what they are doing is drawing national attention from the United States ham radio community and through them from the FCC. (QRZ, others)

**

RESCUE RADIO: FCC AND FEMA ESTABLISH CMAS STANDARD

Two federal agencies have established a mobile communications emergency public warning technology standard. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Communications Commission announced the adoption of design specifications for a gateway interface enabling wireless carriers to provide emergency alerts via cell phones and mobile devices.

The intended Commercial Mobile Alert System--CMAS--project, part of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System. It will be able to provide the President of the United States a means by which to notify Americans of national emergencies. The system would also be available for Amber alerts and regional warnings in the form of 90-character text messages.

The announcement also marks the beginning of the 28-month period, mandated by the FCC in August 2008, for commercial mobile service providers who have elected to participate in the CMAS design specs to develop, test and deploy the system. They must also be in the position to deliver mobile alerts to the public by 2012.

Wireless carriers participating in the CMAS will relay authorized text-based alerts to subscribers. They will also be able to transmit vibration and audio signals for those subscribers with disabilities. (TVB)

**

RADIO HONORS: ARRL SEEKS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD NOMINEES

The ARRL is seeking nominations for one of its most prestigious honors. Jeremy Boot, G4NJH, has the details:

--

Nominations are open for the 2009 ARRL International Humanitarian Award. The award is conferred upon an amateur or amateurs who demonstrate devotion to human welfare, peace and international understanding through amateur radio.

The League established the annual prize to recognize amateur radio operators who have used ham radio to provide extraordinary service to others in times of crisis or disaster.

Nominations should include a summary of the nominee's actions that qualify the individual or individuals for this award, plus verifying statements from at least two people having first-hand knowledge of the events warranting the nomination. Nominations should include the names and addresses of all references. Details appear on the ARRL website, www.arrl.org, where you can search for humanitarian award.

I'm Jeremy Boot, G4NJH.

--

The deadline to nominate an amateur or group of amateurs for the 2009 ARRL International Humanitarian Award is December 31st. (ARRL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR ZS5MU

South African Radio League Councilor Francois Botha, ZS6BUU, has presented Alastair Campbell, ZS5MU, with a special certificate. This recognizing the support he and his wife Davina, ZS5GC, have been giving the yachting fraternity for the past 30 years. The citation states that ZS5MU supported by ZS5GC has operated the South African Maritime Mobile Net serving the yachting community at sea for 30 years. (SARL)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: VE3CT APPOINTED TO CANADIAN AMATEUR RADIO HALL OF FAME

And congratulations go out to Croft Taylor, VE3CT, of Kanata, Ontario, Canada on his appointment to Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame. Taylor was awarded this honor by the Hall's Board of Trustees who have announced that it will be presented to him at a ceremony to be held in in Ottawa in the spring of 2010. Appointments to the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame are made to recognize a radio amateur for outstanding achievement in sustained service to amateur radio in that nation or to all of amateur radio at large. (RAC)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION 2010

Turning to the 2010 ham radio social scene, word that the 61st Annual International DX Convention takes place next April 16th, 17th, 18th at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, Visalia, California.

The International DX Convention is the world's foremost gathering that attracts DX'ers and aspiring DX'ers from around the world. The show attracts the biggest of the big-guns from the African continent, from Asia, Europe, Oceania and of coarse both North and South America. Some are there to tell how they have been able to meet and beat the challenge of DXing in an ever expanding hobby. Others will tell of the challenges of operating

from places far removed from the comfort of their home stations.

The 2010 event will be sponsored by the Southern California DX Club. Pre-registration began on December 1st. More information about the show is on-line at www.dxconvention.org. (IDXC)

**

BREAK 2

Wishing each of you the best of holiday greetings, this is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

WORLDBEAT: CZECH INTELLIGENCE SAYS SADDAM HUSSEIN PLANNED TO ATTACK RADIO FREE EUROPE

You may find this hard to believe, but the Iraq's former leader planned to attack and destroy Radio Free Europe. The plot was recently made public by Media Network and the Czech government. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Davis, W2JKD, has more:

--

According to Andy Sennitt at Media Network the late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein ordered his secret agents to attack the Prague headquarters of US run Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. This, to end broadcasting to Iraq.

Sennitt quotes Czech intelligence service spokesman Jan Subert who said that the attack was ordered by the then Iraqi leader in 2000. Also that Iraqi intelligence agents planned to use numerous weapons including rocket propelled grenades, rifles and submachine guns in the attack. Subert said that the weapons had been stockpiled for the attack after they were brought into the country in an Iraqi diplomatic car.

It was not known when the attack was due to take place but Subert said that Czech intelligence discovered the plot and the Iraqis submitted the weapons to Czech authorities in 2003. The plan was for the attack to take place from the window of a nearby flat that the Iraqis planned to rent as an office for a fake company.

I'm Jim Davis, W2JKD.

--

The report seems to indicate that good intelligence by Czech national security foiled Saddam Hussein's plot. (Media Network)

**

SCIENCE CORNER: RENEWABLE ENERGY USE CLIMBS

Americans used more solar, nuclear, bio-mass and wind energy in 2008 than they did in 2007. This, according to the most recent energy flow charts released by the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

The study also found that the nation also used less coal and petroleum during the same time frame and only slightly increased its natural gas consumption. Geothermal energy use remained the same. (Science Daily)

**

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: APPLE REFUSES WARRANTY ON SMOKERS COMPUTERS

If you smoke and own an Apple computer, the company might not fix it under warranty. This is because Apple says it may void the warranty should you need to bring a smoke exposed computer in for repair.

The Tech Blog at Yahoo notes that in at least two instances in different parts of the country, Apple has voided the warranty and refused to provide repair service on computers exposed to environments where cigarette smoke has been present. Calling cigarette smoke residue inside a computer a health risk and a biohazard, in both cases Apple customers have been denied service despite having time left on a valid warranty.

Apple is standing by the decisions, saying that repair centers have the authority to make decisions like this on their own. It cites OSHA rules that include nicotine in a list of hazardous substances that could damage the health of someone exposed to it.

Apple isn't formally commenting on the issue or responding to media requests for comment, namely regarding whether there's a threshold for cigarette smoke exposure beyond which a computer won't be serviced. No word on whether other computer vendors have the same or similar policies. More is at http://tech.yahoo.com/blogs/null/156203 (Yahoo)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISSAT ONE TO CARRY STUDENT FILES

School students world-wide are being invited to fly a computer file on ARISSAT One, the educational satellite that was originally called Suitsat 2.

ARISSAT One will launch sometime in 2010 and like its predecessor Suitsat One it will again transmit messages recorded by students. But in addition, teachers and their students are invited to fly a file aboard this amateur radio satellite. This on a memory flash drive to be included on the bird.

What a teacher or student wants to fly is at their own discretion, but there are some suggestions from the ARISS team. These include things the student has prepared such as a paper or a study done on a science, technology, engineering or math topic. Other possibilities include, a drawing of space craft or a schematic, a journal kept on an educational topic, a story or news article about a science subject and the like.

Dave Jordan, AA4KN, will take delivery of these files and copy them onto a flash drive memory stick, plus make them available on the web for anyone to see. He will look at all of them for content to make certain that they are appropriate to student viewing.

Files can be in any language as long as an English translation is also included. Only JPG or PDF files will be accepted. Please e-mail files to aa4kn (at) amsat (dot) org. (ON4WF)

**

HAM RADIO NEAR SPACE: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ARISS TRAINING CONTACT

Another highly successful simulated ARISS contact took place on Tuesday, December 8th. This. between Deer Creek Elementary School in Bailey, Colorado and astronaut Tracy Caldwell, KF5DBF at the Johnson Space Center in Houston Texas.

As in the past, this session was a terrestrial-based amateur radio contact using Amateur Radio on the International Space Station equivalent equipment. These QSO's help astronauts learn the ins and outs of operating ham radio in space without having to leave the ground. For the school it means that its kids still get a chance to talk with a real live astronaut.

Reports are that the Deer Creek school enjoyed its session so much that it plans to apply for a contact with an actual on-orbit astronaut. (ANS)

**

THE FINAL FRONTIER: VIRGIN GALACTIC SPACESHIP TWO UNVEILED

Virgin Galactic has unveiled its second sub-orbital spacecraft. The unveiling of the VSS Enterprise took place on Tuesday evening, December 8th at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California's high desert.

Attached to its mother ship, the vehicle better known as SpaceShipTwo is expected to be the first commercial spacecraft when it enters service with Virgin Galactic. Constructed by Scaled Composites under the guidance of legendary aircraft designer Burt Rutan, the carbon composite spacecraft uses the same fuselage as its mother ship, the VMS Eve.

After a year of rigorous testing, VMS Eve completed flight testing earlier this fall. Rutan didn't specify when flight testing for SpaceShipTwo would begin, though it is expected to start early next year.

Sub-orbital passenger flights could start as early as 2011 from Virgin Galactic's space port in New Mexico which is currently under construction. Tickets for the early adopters are $200,000 for a training program culminating with the ride into space. (Virgin Galactic)

**

ON THE AIR: A FERRY GOOD IDEA

On the air, listen out for special event call GB2EI standing for Great Britain to Ireland is on the air to celebrate the reintroduction of the

Swansea to Cork Ferry service. The original service commenced in 1896. A similar station, EI2GBW, will also be operating from Cork. Both special event callsigns will be operational until March 31st of 2010. QSL details are available at qrz.com. (IRTS)

**

ON THE AIR: COMMEMORATING THE 5th EAST ASIAN GAMES

Members of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Communications Association were on the air through December 13th as VR2EAG. This, to celebrate 5th East Asian Games that were hosted there. If you made contact with VR2EAG please QSL to the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Communications Association, GPO Box 7191, Hong Kong. (HKARC)

**

ON THE AIR: GERMAN HAMS CELEBRATE THE ANTARCTIC PROGRAM

And for the final time, the German special event station DR09ANT is on the air to celebrate the Worldwide Antarctic Program. It has is operational through December 31st using all modes on all bands. QSLs will be sent via the bureau automatically. (DX News)

**

DX

In D-X, The DX World of Ham Radio web page is conducting a online survey to see which expedition warrants the title DXpedition of the Year 2009. Special engraved trophies will be awarded to the top three chosen. To participate in the survey, go to http://dx-hamspirit.com.

Also word that SM1TDE plans an operation from Gambia from through December 31st. No other information is available at airtime. QSL as directed on the air.

W4JJ has hit the airwaves as T6LC from the Afghanistan province of Paktia. He is active using CW or SSB on 20 and 40 meters usually from 1430 to 1800 UTC. His QSL cards are handled by K4MJN.

And Angolan station CT1ITZ stroke D2CQ had planned to go QRT by the end of November but his stay was extended until December 27th. He operates SSB only and his QSL manager is CT1IUA.

Lastly, an international group of operators will be active as 3W6C from Con Co Island Vietnam, from April 10th to the 18th, 2010 and there is an open spot for one more operator. If you or any members of your organization would like to be considered a candidate for this open spot on our crew, please send details about your background and DX'ing experience to Hans-Peter by e-mail to hb9bxe (at) 3w6c (dot) qrv (dot) ch. He can supply you further details about expenses, travel, and all other aspects of the operation

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: IRC'S BEING REPLACED

And finally this week, its well known that International Reply Coupons or IRC's are used by many has to help with postal costs. But IRC's do not last forever as we hear from Jason Daniels, VK2LAW:

--

IRCs - important information. Please be aware that the batch of IRCs that have been used for the last
few years will no longer be valid at the post office. 31st December 2009 is the dead line for the current style but it's best to stop using them ASAP to allow transit time. The new one has the expiry date of 31st December 2013, just above the 'UPU' logo at your right hand side.

I'm Jason Daniels, VK2LAW

--

If you have old IRC's get them exchanged before their value is gone. (WIA News)

**

NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Carlson,
KQ6FM, wishing you a Happy Hanukkah and a Merry Christmas from Reno, Nevada. 73 and we thank you for listening.

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509. Welcome to rec.radio.info!

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-22 07:00:02 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/welcome-1-1261465201@panix.com>
Source record: 1719
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/welcome
Revision: 1.4 2008/02/09 19:36:10
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** Welcome to rec.radio.info! ***

Welcome to rec.radio.info, a group that aims to provide a noise-free
source of information and news for the entire rec.radio hierarchy.

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to the group
every month. You are now reading the first article, which explains what
rec.radio.info is, and answers some Frequently Asked Questions. The
second article is titled Posting Guidelines, and you only need to read
it if you want to submit an article to rec.radio.info.

You can skip to the next section of this article by searching for the
next
" -- " string. The sections available are:
- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?
- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?
- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?
- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.
- What type of material is considered inappropriate?
- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to
rec.radio.info?
- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?
- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to
speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

-- What is the purpose of rec.radio.info?

The purpose or charter of rec.radio.info is to provide the Usenet
community with a resource for information, news, and facts about any and
all things radio.

All the other rec.radio groups are intended for discussions and general
chit chat about radio. Rec.radio.info will contain informational,
factual articles only. Follow-ups are redirected to an appropriate other
group, and further discussion (if any) will not take place in
rec.radio.info.
```

In order to ensure that rec.radio.info contains only appropriate articles, it was decided to create the group as a moderated newsgroup.

-- Why are messages almost always cross posted to rec.radio.info?

It provides a "tag" for each article to be assembled into a filtered presentation in rec.radio.info (even with cross-posting, only one message, with a unique Message-ID, is propagated across the net). This tag also facilitates a pre-existing method of dropping or canceling the articles locally within the discussion groups if you don't want to see them. This accommodates individuals who want to separate the bulletins from the discussions, discussions from the bulletins, as well as those who are adamant about not reading another newsgroup and wanted to see everything all in one basket.

With the total size of Usenet (in number of newsgroups and total traffic) doubling every year or so, this is no insignificant contribution to reducing information noise and chaos. Making the discussion groups a catch-all, and making extra newsgroups filters on that catch-all, is also the most realistic way to implement such a scheme (It's not intuitively obvious what the charter, contents, and general appropriate topics for each and every newsgroup are. Seeing FAQ's and charter/intro postings in the home newsgroup is beneficial for new readers).

By cross-posting one only is adding a few tens of bytes to each bulletin (to specify the extra group on the Newsgroups line), but are adding the capability for very powerful filtering features available on most news servers, listservers and readers. Your local news guru could probably explain these features in more detail.

In rn, for example, according to Leanne Phillips in her rn kill-file FAQ, add a line of the form:

/Newsgroups:.*[,]rec\.radio\.info/h:j

either in ~/News/KILL (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere) or ~/News/rec/radio/amateur/misc/KILL (if you don't want to see them just in rec.radio.amateur.misc). The latter method means your kill file will only be consulted during rec.radio.amateur.misc (and hence runs more efficiently), and will probably work for most people.

In nn, according to Bill Wohler in his nn FAQ, add a line of the form:

rec.radio.info:!s/:^

in ~/.nn/kill (if you don't want to see rec.radio.info articles anywhere), or put the following lines:

sequence
rec.radio.info
rec.radio.

at the end of ~/.nn/init in order to see all the rec.radio.info bulletins first, then read the remaining rec.radio.* without the

bulletins.

In slrn, according to the srln FAQ, the following scoring rule will | allow you to see rec.radio.info-crossposted bulletins, while still | filtering out most SPAM or "Velveeta" crossposted to more than 2 | newsgroups (as such articles usually do not contain a 'Followup-To:' | header): |

Score: -9999 |
Newsgroups: ,.*, |
~Followup-To: . |

More information about kill files may be obtained from Dave Fawthrop's Killfile FAQ at:

http://www.hyphenologist.co.uk/killfile/

-- What is a 'follow-up', and what does 'moderated' mean?

If you are new to Usenet and are not familiar with the terminology, you might want to read the general introductory articles found in the newsgroup news.announce.newusers. Doing so will make your life on the net much easier, and will probably save you from making silly beginner's mistakes.

If you think that at this moment you are reading an echo, a conference, or a bulletin board, I'd also strongly suggest a trip over to news.announce.newusers.

For the rest of this article, we will assume you have a basic knowledge of Usenet terminology and mechanics.

A moderated group means that any article that needs to be posted to the group has to be accepted by the moderator of the group. Since we need to ensure that followups to an article (discussion) do not show up in the rec.radio.info newsgroup, the `Followup-To:' header line contains a newsgroup that is appropriate for discussions about the specific article.

-- OK, so now I know what 'moderated' means. Tell me more.

Rec.radio.info is a moderated newsgroup, which means that all articles submitted to the group will have to be approved by the moderator first.

The current moderator of the group is the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team. Submissions to rec.radio.info can be posted, or e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Comments, criticisms, suggestions or questions about the group can be e-mailed to:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

But before you do so, please be sure to check out the "Posting Guidelines" article.

The influence of the moderator should be minimal and of an administrative nature, consisting chiefly of weeding out obviously inappropriate articles, while making sure correct headers etc. are used for the appropriate ones.

-- What type of material is considered inappropriate?

There are three broad categories of articles which will be rejected by the moderator:

1) Requests for information: rec.radio.info is strictly a one-way street. We receive information in our mailbox; we then post it to rec.radio.info. Requests for specific information belong in the normal discussion newsgroups. If your request gets answered, you might consider passing the answer on to rec.radio.info, though. Especially if you can edit it into a informational, rather than a discussion, format.

2) Obvious discussion articles, or articles that appear unsubstantiated.

3) Commercial stuff: a relatively unbiased test of a radio product would be accepted, but any hint of for-profit might be reason for rejection. For three reasons: This is not the purpose of the list, for-profit is a controversial topic, and this list may be passed onto Amateur Packet Radio (where for-profit is prohibited except under certain provisos).

rec.radio.swap may be more deserving of the posting in any matter.

Similarly, copyrighted material generally cannot be used. If it's TRULY worthwhile to the net, We would recommend obtaining permission from the copyright holder. Please note the source, and if permission was given. We reserve the right to make the final decision concerning appropriateness in all situations. In most cases, a brief summary of, or pointer to, the copyrighted information may be all we can allow.

-- I do not have access to news, how can I get the information posted to rec.radio.info?

Google has an excellent web interface to Usenet newsgroups. It is available at:

http://groups.google.com

It supports both reading and posting.

Another excellent web interface to at least the radio-related Usenet newsgroups is the RadioBanter site:

http://www.radiobanter.com

sponsored by the NewsgroupBanter project:

http://www.newsgroupbanter.com

It, too, supports both reading and posting.

-- Will the material appearing in rec.radio.info be archived somewhere?

Yes. See Google Groups and RadioBanter above.

Effectively this means that anything you post to rec.radio.info will be permanently stored, so your work will not be lost.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, is there a way to speed up it's delivery, or automate for more convenience?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as time critical.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires co-operation and goodwill to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio hierarchy.

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

510. rec.radio.info Posting Guidelines

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-22 07:05:01 UTC
From: rram@panix.com
Message-ID: <radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines-1-1261465500@panix.com>
Source record: 1720
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.info,rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.answers,news.answers

```
Posted-By: auto-faq 3.3.2 beta (PGPMoose V2.0, Perl 5.005)
Archive-name: radio/rec-radio-info/guidelines
Revision: 1.5 2007/03/22 16:30:49
Posting-Frequency: posted monthly
URL: http://www.panix.com/~rram/usenet/rri/index.html

Changes followed by "|".

*** rec.radio.info - Posting Guidelines and Etiquette ***

Two introductory articles about rec.radio.info are posted to this group
and to rec.answers/news.answers every month. You are now reading the
second article, which explains how to submit something to
rec.radio.info, and which answers some Frequently Asked Questions about
the submission process. The first article is titled "Welcome to
rec.radio.info", and it might be a good idea to check it out as well.

-- How do I submit something to rec.radio.info?

Two possibilities. You can use your newsreading software to just post
the article to rec.radio.info, as you would do with any other
newsgroup. The difference is that the software recognizes the special
status of rec.radio.info as a moderated group, and will e-mail your
article to us, the moderation team, instead of posting it to the group.

Alternatively, you can mail your article directly to us at the following
address:

rec-radio-info@panix.com

Mailing us directly is probably (a wee bit) faster, but using the
transparency offered by the newsreading software is probably more
convenient.

If you have any questions, or wish to deal with some administrivia with
the moderation team, we suggest mailing to the following address:

rec-radio-info-request@panix.com

-- How soon will I see my article appear?

It depends on how busy we are. Your article reaches us as mail, we have
to read it first, give it the stamp of approval, and finally send it on
to the group. We will attempt to read and decide on all submissions
within 72 hours at the very least, though we will probably be able to
process submissions much faster in actual practice.
```

The site from which we moderate this newsgroup, "Public Access Internet and Unix, NYC" (Panix), is directly connected to the Internet, and articles posted at that site should appear at most major news sites, including Google Groups, the same day. The principal delay, therefore, will be the wait in the moderator's submission queue.

If you post a periodic article, and have shown to be trustworthy, we may allow you to post directly if the article is of a timely nature. See the section below on direct posting.

-- Should my article be in a specific format?

No. If it is not totally illegible, we will accept it, and if it does not have a correct subject-line we will correct it with your permission -- that's what a moderator is for.

However.

You could do us a big favor by making sure your article conforms to these simple requirements:

1) The article must present information, not discussion or requests, We will reject the article or require you to change the wording if it is worth it.
2) A good, descriptive Subject line.
3) Always mention what source you got the information from.
4) Don't forget to include a Followup-To header, at least if you don't want further discussion to automatically be forwarded to you, the poster, which is the default if the article is only posted to rec.radio.info.

As we said: if your article is appropriate we will post it even if you don't follow these guidelines, but then don't blame us for not processing it immediately. 'Perfect' articles we can send on with a couple of keystrokes. Stuff that needs minor editing is going to have to wait until we have time to do so.

Please do not waste both our and your time by posting requests, as this is an information only news group.

-- What about crossposting?

If you send something to rec.radio.info, just name any group you'd like to cross-post to in the Newsgroups field. Then, when we approve the article for rec.radio.info it will get automatically cross-posted to any other groups mentioned. This will also override the default Followup-To: poster, replacing it with the groups you cross posted to.

We would prefer if the group be cross-posted to the various discussion groups in the rec.radio.* hierarchy that are appropriate:

rec.radio.amateur.misc Amateur (ham) radio and related matters
rec.radio.amateur.packet Amateur Packet Radio discussions
rec.radio.amateur.policy Amateur Radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.noncomm Non commercial radio discussions

rec.radio.shortwave International broadcasting on the 'HF' bands
rec.radio.cb Citizens Band (27 MHz) discussion
rec.radio.scanner Scanner discussions (unsupported group)

or in one of the moderated groups:

rec.radio.amateur.moderated Amateur radio practices, rules, etc.
rec.radio.broadcasting Discussion of *domestic* radio broadcasting

We will leave it up to the poster to decide which group(s) are appropriate, but reserve the right to add groups if we feel it has broader interest. We will consult with the poster first.

Notes on crossposting:

- rec.radio.broadcasting is also a moderated group. The rec.radio.broadcasting moderator prefers to review all articles himself before posting. Placing rec.radio.broadcasting before rec.radio.info on the Newsgroups line should accomplish this. We will typically abide by the rec.radio.broadcasting moderator's decision whether the article is appropriate for rec.radio.info.

- rec.radio.amateur.moderated is also a moderated group. As the rec.radio.amateur.moderated Moderation Team manages both rec.radio.amateur.moderated and rec.radio.info, we can manage crossposting and approvals for both newsgroups. The rec.radio.amateur.moderated group does not allow crossposting to other discussion newsgroups, whether moderated or unmoderated. However, we would like to manage rec.radio.info as consistently as possible with how it was done by previous moderators, including the grandfathering of existing regular postings. Therefore, the submitter can choose rec.radio.amateur.moderated or the other unmoderated rec.radio.amateur.* discussion newsgroups for crossposting, but not both.

- Any FAQ or informational posting approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderation team that is also crossposted to any rec.radio.* newsgroup (besides just rec.radio.info) is also automatically pre-approved for rec.radio.info. See below for more information.

If you post to another moderated group, it may be better to make special arrangements with both moderators before posting by contacting us at our administrivia addresses.

In addition, cross-posts do not take up extra space; modern newsreaders can be configured to show you cross-posted articles only once anyway; not everybody reads rec.radio.info; and rec.radio.info was never meant to reduce the volume of the regular discussion newsgroups. But keep in mind that some of the mail gateways may filter out the informational postings (at request of the subscribers) to keep the load down.

You decide.

-- I have a regular posting with timely information, can I make arrangements to help speed up delivery by posting directly from my site?

Yes, there is! It may take a bit of chatter with the moderator, but we are willing to take responsible people and provide them the means of posting the articles directly from their site. We will try everything we can as we fully realize that DX (distant signal) and astronomical data can be somewhat transitory. We are also willing to allow regular posters of information the same courtesy, even if the information is not as timely.

We refer to this as self-moderation, which is partly based on the model for rec.answers/news.answers. This requires cooperation and good will to be beneficial to the community in the rec.radio.* hierarchy.

If you are currently maintaining (or plan to maintain) a radio-related periodic information posting, you may wish to consider crossposting it to rec.answers/news.answers. Postings that are approved by the rec.answers/news.answers moderators for this treatment are automatically pre-approved for crossposting to rec.radio.info (as the news.answers requirements are far more rigorous than the requirements this newsgroup ever plans to use). For more information about this option, consult the appropriate information articles and posting guidelines in rec.answers/news.answers.

Realize also, that even if your post is not approved for rec.answers/news.answers, it can still be approved for rec.radio.info. The intention is not so much to get every last bit of radio-related information on rec.answers/news.answers, but rather to provide an alternative avenue of approval (as well as grandfather existing maintainers of radio-related information and spare them additional bureaucratic hurdles). Again, crossposting to either rec.radio.info or rec.answers/news.answers, both, or neither, is at the discretion of the poster (subject to the approval of the moderators). You decide what is most appropriate for your article.

Please remember that as an information maintainer, you are not alone. There are many others on the net who maintain and post periodic information postings, using various intermediate-to-advanced features of Usenet (usually via automated tools). Various degrees of technical support and general hand-holding are available from many Usenet veterans. Send us some E-mail describing your needs to our administrative address below, and we'll try to help, or at least refer you to the right knowledgeable individual(s).

-- And Follow-ups?

If the only newsgroup you have specified is rec.radio.info, then the Followup-To: field will always be set to poster. If you do not want this, you must supply a Followup-To line of your own, and we will honor that one, as long as it is a subset of the original Newsgroups line.

If you specify newsgroups to cross-post to, then the Followup-To field will be set to include all the cross-posted groups, excepting rec.radio.info itself. Again, if you do not wish this behavior, supply your own Followup-To line.

We maintain other standards on the various RFC-1036 (news transport) header lines. For example, if the article is appropriate for passing into the Packet Radio Information Network, we encapsulate the Packet Bulletin Identifier (BID) in the Message-ID: news header line indicating the machine of origin as the ampr.org domain:

Message-ID: <$opa.55.1994@ampr.org> |

where the Packet Radio BID, in this example, is `$OPA.55', and it was posted in the year 1994, because some of the Bid numbers are cycled yearly. Hopefully, this can be used as a key to re-introduce the articles for the Packet Radio network. Also, if the article is a repost of an already existing information article in the rec.radio heirarchy, we ensure that the References: header line is linked to that previously posted article. This also helps to tag articles, and may be used for additional filtering if needed.

Since the articles are archived, please use the Summary and Keywords header lines to help one search for your article.

-- Why have I received no reply from you?

We never reject anything in silence, and we make a point of it to answer all our mail. However, E-mail, like a brain cell, can and does get lost, every now and again.

So, if you send us something, and you don't see it appear it rec.radio.info, and you still have not heard from us in reply after say, five days, you can be pretty sure that either your mail never reached us, or that our answer has never reached you. In that case, please try again (We will filter out duplicates).

Please direct any comments, questions, or criticisms about this article to rec-radio-info-request@panix.com.

(Adapted, with permission, from the original article written by Mark Salyzyn, AG4YD, ex-VE6MGS.)

511. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1689 - December 25 2009

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-25 02:44:57 UTC
From: "William M. Pasternak" <newsline@ix.netcom.com>
Message-ID: <5.2.0.9.2.20091224172914.030c0008@popd.ix.netcom.com>
Source record: 1721
Cross-posted to: rec.radio.amateur.moderated,rec.radio.amateur.misc,rec.radio.amateur.policy,rec.radio.info

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1689 with a release date of
Friday, December 25th 2009 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Congress may force the FCC to have engineers
as advisors to the Commissioners, the Emergency Communications
Enhancement act gets a nod from the U-S Senate, a power company is told
to turn off part of its system due to alleged interference to aircraft,
hams worldwide welcome the XW-1 ham-sat to the airwaves and a visit with
an all grown up Veronica Harrington, KC6TQR. All this and more an our
Christmas week Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1689 coming your
way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

**

RADIO LAW: CONGRESS TO CONSIDER PUTTING STAFF ENGINEERS BACK AT FCC

Engineers may soon be advising FCC Commissioners if the United States
Congress has its way. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW,
reports:

--

United States Senator Olympia Snowe, of Maine, has introduced a bill
that would potentially add one electrical engineer or computer scientist
to the staffs of each commissioner of the Federal Communications
Commission. Known as S. 2881, the bi-partisan measure co-sponsored by
Senator. Mark Warner of Virginia would create the new position of Staff
Engineer and would require that the person have a degree in electrical
engineering or be a computer scientist.

According to the Society of Broadcast Engineers, if eventually passed
into law the new authorization would effectively undo a loosening of
requirements for technical staff at the highest level of the FCC that
began more than 25 years ago. SBE President Vinny Lopez said the bill
will go a long way toward returning technical expertise to the FCC
commissioners' offices.

This creation of the mandatory Staff Engineer would be an additional
position. The bill does not seek to replace any of the current three
authorized staff assistants in each commissioner's office. The Society
of Broadcast Engineers says that it will seek to get a companion bill
introduced in the House.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

--

The previous attempt to add technical expertise to the FCC commissioner's offices took place way back in 1991. That's when Representative Don Ritter introduced HR. 3501, which would have required that at least one member of the commission be skilled in the engineering sciences. It went down to defeat. (RW)

**

RADIO LAW: AR EMCOMM ENHANCEMENT ACT GETS SENATE NOD

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009 has been passed the Senate by unanimous consent and now goes to the House of Representatives.

S 1755 was cosponsored by Senators Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Susan Collins of Maine. The measure if passed and signed into law would direct the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on emergency communications and the role played by radio amateurs.

S 1755 points out that there is a strong Federal interest in the effective performance of Amateur Radio Service stations. As such that performance must be given support at all levels of government; and protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments.

More on this bill is on-line at the ARRL Website at www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/12/15/11247/?nc=1 (ARRL)

**

RESCUE RADIO: VK HAMS COMMEMORATE RECOVERY FROM BRUSHFIRE

Australia's Yarra Valley Amateur Radio Group will be setting up a field station with the call VI3KIAH at Kinglake. This in commemoration of the work done by hams at the Black Saturday bush fires. Kinglake was one of the worst affected areas in the Australian 2009 fire season. Jim Linton VK3PC picks up the story from here:

--

This commemorative operation is using a callsign that has the suffix KIAH. Thats an Australian Aboriginal word meaning 'beautiful place' or 'from a beautiful place'.

The purpose of the amateur radio activity is to acknowledge the efforts of all who fought and were involved the Black Saturday fires on the 7th of February this year, and the services provided by radio amateurs.

VI3KIAH will be at the Frank Thompson Reserve Kinglake 2pm to 8pm local time on Sunday the 7th of February.

It's first 173 contacts will qualify for a "From the Black" QSL card the significance of 173 is that number of people died in the disaster.

On the day VI3KIAH will be operating both VHF and HF from the club's new emergency communications caravan that has replaced the vehicle destroyed by fire at Healesville.

The Yarra Valley Amateur Group invites those who were involved in the Black Saturday disaster and others to visit the station at Kinglake and to look for it on air.

Well done to the group for its planning of this respectful commemorative activity to occur on a day when all Victorians are asked to pause for a minute's silence for the first anniversary of the Black Saturday bushfire disaster.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Jim Linton, VK3PC.

--

No doubt that the world of amateur radio will be listening on February 7th for the callsign VI3KIAH. (VK3PC)

**

RESTRUCTURING: CEPT SURVEYS MEMBERS ON UNIVERSAL LICENSE EXPANSION

Meantime, across the Atlantic pond the CEPT Electronic Communications Committee Working Group RA2, which deals with Radio Amateur issues, has published the results of a questionnaire. This, on the procedure for a country joining CEPT Recommendations.

The survey sought the views of CEPT member administrations on the appropriate procedure for a country to join in using these CEPT Recommendations in relation to an acceptable universal Amateur Radio license and on a harmonized or universally accepted Amateur Radio Examination Certificate. It also sought input on the need for public consultation in case of amendment of national information in the relevant annexes to these recommendations.

For those not aware, CEPT is an acronym that stands for the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications. The actual name comes from the French pronunciation of the group which is the Confï¿½rence europï¿½enne des administrations des postes et des tï¿½lï¿½communications.

CEPT was established on June 26, 1959 as a coordinating body for European state telecommunications and postal organizations. The results of the survey are on line at www.ero.dk. (Southgate)

**

RADIO LAW: OFCOM GRANTS EXTENSION TO 500 kHz UK STA

United Kingdom hams involved in 500kHz experimentation have had their license Notices of Validity extended to 2012. This to permit the continued evaluation of that band.

On Wednesday December 16th, UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom announced that following requests made by the Radio Society of Great Britain, the period of validity for all 501 to 504 kHz Notices of Validity is to be extended. This, follows negotiations with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency which lead Ofcom to extending the validity period to February 29, 2012.

The Notices of Validity, which are the UK equivalent of the FCC's granting of a Special Temporary Authority, were originally planned to expire at the end of February 2010. (RSGB)

**

BREAK 1

This week coming to you from warm and sunny Auckland, New Zealand, where its mid-summer, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the W9DUP repeater serving DuPage Illinois.

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE BPL WAR: UK MAGAZINE VS. BPL/PLT

A United Kingdom consumer electronics magazine has taken on the Broadband over Powerline interference issue.

Author Mike Richards, G4WNC, visited the recent E-M-C U-K trade show and found that powerline telecommunications and the problems they are causing were the hot topics there. His report can be read on pages 32 through 35 of the January issue of Radio User magazine.

The article suggests that if readers think they are suffering from interference then they should complain to telecommunications regulator Ofcom. It also explains how to properly address the issue with Ofcom and refers readers to the United Kingdom radio interference website at www.ukqrm.org

(Radio User Magazine: http://www.radiouser.co.uk/) (GB2RS)

**

ENFORCEMENT: POWER COMPANY TOLD TO TURN OFF INTERFERENCE IN AIR BAND

Its not BPL this time, but Duke Energy, which is an electric utility serving North Carolina, has been ordered to cease operating a small portion of its power grid. This, because of its inability to remedy RFI on 111.7 MHz. that the FCC deems to be a hazard to flight safety. Frank Haas, KB4T has more in this report:

--

The story goes this way. In response to a complaint of interference, on November 25th an agent of the FCC's Norfolk Office inspected power line

facilities belonging to Duke Energy located near the Falls Lake Reservoir in Durham and Wake Counties, North Carolina. During the examination the agent observed the facilities radiating energy on frequencies including 111.7MHz. This FCC says this caused harmful interference to air navigation aids used by pilots flying into nearby Raleigh-Durham International airport.

Later the same day, the agent notified the call center for Duke Energy of the harmful interference and of the need to cease operations at the affected locations. The call center supervisor stated someone would contact the agent about the interference in a few days. So the FCC waited the few days but as of December 2nd Duke Energy has not contacted the FCC about the interference or notified it that operations had been turned off at the affected locality.

So on December 3rd the FCC got tough. It notified Duke Energy that operation of the power-line facilities was causing interference in violation of Section 15.5(b) of the Commission Rules. It directed Duke Energy to cease operations at the affected locations immediately and keep that part of the grid shut down until repairs had been made. It also told Duke that failure to comply could subject the company to additional enforcement action against it.

According to the regulatory agency violations of the Communications Act or the FCC Rules could subject the violator to substantial monetary forfeitures, or seizure of equipment. It could also lead to criminal sanctions, including imprisonment.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Frank Haas, KB4T, in Holly Hill, Florida, reporting.

--

At airtime its not yet known if Duke Energy has complied with the FCC directive to take down its power grid in the geographic area where the interference to aviation communications has been taking place. The complete text of the Official Citation is on line at http://www.fcc.gov/eb/FieldNotices/2003/DOC-295187A1.html (FCC, CGC)

**

RADIO LAW: LPFM EXPANSION GETS CONGRESSIONAL BOOST

A measure to permit the FCC to create more Low Power FM broadcast stations has begun its trek through the United States Congress. By a voice vote on December 18th the House of Representatives passed a bill to drop third-adjacent channel protections for most full-power FM broadcasters in order to fit more low-power FM's on the band.

House Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, of California says that HR 1147, the Local Community Radio Act, removes a statutory barrier to the creation of potentially thousands of new low power stations. The bill now moves to the Senate, where so far no action is yet scheduled.

(RW)

**

RADIO LAW: SENATOR FEINGOLD WANTS RADIO MARTI TO GO QRT

Senator Russ Feingold's "Spotlight on Spending" series has taken aim at Radio and TV Marti. Feingold, a member of the Senate Budget Committee calls Radio and TV Martï¿½ are a relic of Cold War attempts to broadcast radio and TV signals into Cuba that virtually no one tunes in to anymore.

According to Feingold, government studies show that Radio and TV Martï¿½ are riddled with problems, and fall short of journalistic standards. He also says that as the United States progresses toward a more modern and constructive relationship with Cuba, that Radio and TV Martï¿½ no longer have any real diplomatic or fiscal purpose.

Backing him up is a January 2009 report by the Government Accountability Office. It found that Radio and TV Martï¿½ broadcasts continue to face jamming by the Cuban government. According to the GAO, the best available research suggests that the audience for Radio and TV Martï¿½ is small, and its effectiveness uncertain. (Source: Media Network, Press Release by Senator Russ Feingold)

**

HAM RADIO JOB: ARRL NEEDS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MANAGER

The ARRL is looking for an Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager. The Primary Objective of this headquarters staff position is to develop and maintain ARRL's emergency communications and emergency preparedness functions, both internally and externally. To apply, please e-mail your resume to Monique Levesque at ARRL headquarters at mlevesque (at) arrl (dot) org. (ARRL)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: DAYTON HAMVENTION TO STAY AT HARA THROUGH 2013

The Dayton Hamvention will be staying at its home at the Hara Arena at least another three years. According to planners the Hamvention Committee has inked a deal with the Hara covering 2011, 2012 and 2013 in addition to the one already in place for 2010. The planning committee has also reached an agreement with the close in Salem Mall for parking and with the local bus service for transportation to and from the mall parking site. Hamvention 2010 is slated for May 14th to the 16th which is less than 6 months away. (DARA)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: ZS2LAW TO MANAGE HERMANUS MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY

Some names in the news. Dr. Lee-Anne McKinnell, ZS2LAW, has been appointed as acting Managing Director of South Africa's Hermanus

Magnetic Observatory. This during the absence of Sandile Malinga who has been appointed by the Minister of Science and Technology to serve as caretaker Chief Executive Officer of the South African Space Agency for a period of 18 months beginning January 1st, 2010.

Dr. McKinnell is well known for her participation in the South African Radio League's Radio Technology in Action program where she has made many presentations over the past three years. Despite her busy schedule, will again be joining the program in 2010.

The Hermanus Magnetic Observatory is a South African research facility of the National Research Foundation which is an autonomous science council responsible for research and human resources development in South Africa More about it is on-line at /www.nrf.ac.za. (NZART)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: A MONEY HUNT BY AN HONORABLE HAM

And a ham radio operator working a tow vehicle driver is a big hero to one of his clientele. This as Craig Goldbeck, N9ETD, and his father Gerald recover missing money for a local business.

The two were calling on customers of their Goldbeck Towing business in Onalaska, Wisconsin, when they noticed something strange on Highway 16. That something was money.

According to the La Crosse Tribune, earlier in the day an employee of an area business had driven off with a bank bag containing $3,000 on the vehicle's hood. It broke free and scattered its contents across the landscape.

The men started picking up $20 bills, some of them in stacks of four or five. They then called police and an officer joined the money hunt. In all the trio recovered $2,860 that was returned to its rightful owner.

The Goldbecks' were rewarded for their honesty and sharp eyes. The business owner sent them a box of steaks. (lacrossetribune.com, KC9ECI)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. This week coming to you from Auckland, New Zealand where we celebrate Christmas on the beach, we are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: TERRESTRIAL AMATEURS WELCOME THE XW-1 HAMSAT

Amateur satellite operators worldwide have reported receiving strong signals on the telemetry beacon of China's XW-1 satellite that was launched on December 15th. The satellite is currently being commissioned but all three amateur radio modes, which include an VHF to UHF FM repeater, a VHF to UHF linear transponder and a crossband AFSK packet system have been tested and appear to be operating to their design specification. Also strong is its Morse beacon on 435.7900 MHz.

During the checkout Michael Chen, BD5RV/4 reported that he managed to operate the special event station BT3WX to work several E2, BY, VR2, XX9 stations throughout on an evening pass using the FM transponder. AFSK packet operations were active over Japan with JA0CAW receiving the downlink on 435.675 MHz at 1200bps. As to the linear transponder? It was also busy with JE1CVL, JH1EKH, BD4SY, JF2CTY, JH1BCL, JA5BLZ succeeded in a QSO over Japan.

The first activation of the XW-1 linear transponder over North America took place in the early hours of December 20th and Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, produced a spectragram of the event showing the 50 kHz passband full of SSB signals. KO4MA says that right after XW-1 came on he called CQ and was answered by K8YSE. After moving up in the passband he worked W4DFU at the University of Florida followed by HK4MKE in Columbia.

An XW-1 CW Telemetry Decoder by Mike Rupprecht, DK3WN, can be downloaded at www.dk3wn.info/software.shtml (ANS)

**
HAM RADIO IN SPACE: XW1 NOW HO-68

And this just in. AMSAT-NA OSCAR Number Coordinator Bill Tynan, W3XO, has informed Alan Kung, BA1DU, Amateur Satellite Project Manager and Chief Executive Officer of AMSAT-China that XW-1 is now designated as Hope OSCAR 68, or HO-68. More can be found on-line on the AMSAT-China web page at www.camsat.cn. (W3XO)

**

RADIO NEAR SPACE: UK BALLOON LAUNCH

Monday December 14th saw the launch of Pegasus High Altitude Balloon from Cambridge in the UK.

Because of restrictions imposed by the UK Amateur Radio license it was not possible to use an amateur transmitter on the balloon, so instead a GSM cell-phone was fitted along with a License Exempt 434.075 MHz 10 milliwatt transmitter running 50-baud RTTY.

While the GSM phone doesn't work above about 3000 feet it is extremely reliable once the payload has landed while the License Exempt transmitter allowed the payload to be tracked throughout the flight.

Further information on the project is at www.pegasushabproject.org.uk (Pegasus Project)

**

RADIO IN SPORTS: NEW RADIO TECHNIQUE AIDS TRAINING COMPETITION SKIIERS

Tiny radio transmitters on skis are helping competitive skiers analyze their technique. These units can be attached to an athlete's skis and transmit through small antennas located to the front and the back of the skis.

Receiving stations placed alongside a slope in regular intervals pick up the signals and analyze the time a signal needs to travel from the antenna to a station, thus accurately determining an antenna's position within three centimeters. A computer attached to the receiver calculates the position of the skis every millisecond and displays their exact path on a monitor.

The Austrian firm Abatec developed the system. It says that its adaptable to just about any sport that requires a close study of athlete performance and event timing. (Science OnLine)

**

DX SURVEY: CHOOSING THE TOP DXPEDITIONS OF 2009

The 'DX World of Ham Radio' web page is conducting a online survey to see which expedition warrants the title DXpedition of the Year 2009. Special engraved trophies will be shipped to the top three. To participate in the survey, go to http://dx-hamspirit.com. (Ham Spirit)

**

DX

In DX, word that UT6UE and UT6UF are on board a ship headed to the Ukrainian Antarctic Research Centre's Vernadsky Base. They have with them a Yaesu H-F transceiver, an antenna tuner and a folded dipole for 80, 40 and 20 meters. They hope to be active on 80, 40 and 20 meters between 2200 and 0100 UTC. They have already been reported on the Packet-Clusters signing UT6UE/MM. QSL as directed on the air.

W2CG will be active as either P40C or P40CG from Aruba from the 5th to the 26th of January 2010 primarily CW and RTTY on 80 through 6 metres. Listen out for him between 1200 to 1400 and 2000 to 2400 UTC. QSL via W2CG, direct or bureau.

The Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia will be active as VI2BI from Broughton Island on February 5th, 6th and 7th. The team plans to operate CW, SSB and RTTY on 160 through 6 meters. QSL direct to VK2CL.

JQ1LCW is now active from Mauritania as 5T5YL. Recent reports say she has been heard on 17 meter SSB working mainly Europe and East Coast North American stations. QSL via JQ1LCW.

Lastly, VE6LB says via the Ohio Penn DX Newsletter that he will be active portable A6 from Dubai between January 8th and February 8th. His operation will be holiday style with low power using wire antennas

mainly on 40 through 15 meters CW. QSL direct via his home callsign or Logbook to the World.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO VERONICA HARRINGTON, KC6TQR

And finally this week, a question. A rhetorical one that asks whatever happened to Veronica Harrington, KC6TQR? You know, the cute little 6 year old ham from Long Beach, California. The one who captivated the nation with her appearance demonstrating ham radio on the Late Night with David Letterman program back in March of 1992.

Well the truth be known, Veronica is still a ham but she is now all grown up, married and out in the business world. The Rain Report's Hap Holly, KC9RP, recently had a long chat with Veronica and she told him what has happened in her life over the past 17 years:

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KC6TQR: "Throughout my life I have done a lot. When I was 8 I actually got my FCC Commercial License. When I was 11 I got my Parliamentarian License and I became an E.M.T. when I was 18 while out volunteering with the Sheriff's license out here in Los Angeles.

"Professionally I do investment banking.

"I like going to Disneyland.

"I really like exploring the area. I actually live in downtown Los Angeles and love all the old architecture down here. There are so many things to discover."

--

That's just a small sample of the Veronica Harrington Myers, KC6TQR, story. To hear more just tune into this weeks RAIN Report. You will find it on-line at www.therainreport.com or on your telephone at 773-358-7845. (RAIN)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, and the entire world-wide all volunteer Amateur Radio Newsline team wishing you a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, 73 and we thank you for listening.

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512. North American Traffic & Awards 1st Anniversary Special Event

Newsgroup: rec.radio.amateur.moderated
Date: 2009-12-31 17:24:40 UTC
From: Dick AC7EL <rng@richbonnie.com>
Message-ID: <49npj5dbjk51qq0b25t6eivjti6ti969tq@4ax.com>
Source record: 1722

I found this in the Amateur Radio group ay Yahoo.com.

Dick, AC7EL

>To: <amateur_radio@yahoogroups.com>
>Subject: [amateur_radio] North American Traffic & Awards 1st Anniversary Special Event
>From: "Jim Duncan" <jdbandman@earthlink.net>
>Date: Wed, 30 Dec 2009 19:24:40 -0600
>
>
>
>Off-topic, my apologies but we're trying to get the word out as far as
>possible. Please forward this to other ham radio email lists you may belong
>to with our thanks in advance!!!
>
>
>73 de Jim, KU0G
>
>
>The North American Traffic & Awards Net will celebrate it's first
>anniversary of it's return to the air this New Year's Day, Friday, January
>1, 2010, on all nets scheduled that day and January 2, 2010.
>
>
>We welcome any and all amateurs to our nets and especially on our first
>anniversary celebration night!
>
>
>To commemorate our first anniversary NATA is issuing a special Anniversary
>Award Certificate. To qualify for the certificate, check in to one (or
>more!) of the following nets on January 1 and 2, 2010 (local calendar date)
>and make at least TWO completed contacts on the nets your participate in.
>Net control will keep record of operators who qualify for the Anniversary
>Award and submit those for processing immediately after each net closes.
>
>
>Special endorsements will be available for working Original NATA members
>(stations who were participants in the original NATA net from the 1970's and
>80's, these stations will identify themselves and that will be noted in the
>online logging system)
>
>
>The net schedule for January 1, 2010, is as follows:
>
>

>TIME FREQ. MODE NCS
>
>
>0000z 7.195 SSB KU0G
>
>
>0130z 7.070 PSK-31 K0JSC
>
>
>0230z 1.905 SSB KC9LGW
>
>
>0345z 3.905 SSB KU0G
>
>
>The net schedule for January 2, 2010, is as follows:
>
>
>TIME FREQ. MODE NCS
>
>
>0000z 7.195 SSB KU0G
>
>
>0230z 3.57815 PSK-31 K0JSC
>
>
>0345z 3.905 SSB KU0G
>
>
>Awards will be available starting January 2, 2010, via the NATA website
>(www.northamericantrafficandawards.net). Access your award through the
>online Awards Retrieval system via the page menu. All NATA awards are FREE
>(if you use our online system) and are delivered as professional quality,
>high-resolution PDF files which you can print yourself or store on portable
>drives and take to your local print shop for printing. We recommend printing
>on 110# glossy cardstock for best results!
>
>
>NATA nets use N1HWQ's NetLogger software for live online check-in listings
>and live chat with other net participants. To download this free software
>please visit www.netlogger.org.
>
>
>Thanks for your participation and we look forward to having lots of folks,
>both old AND new, participating in on First Anniversary Celebration.
>
>
>73 de Jim, KU0G